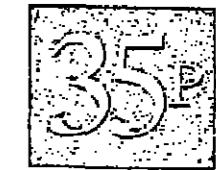


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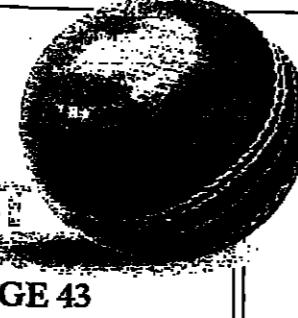
# THE TIMES



WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

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**WHAT'S WRONG  
WITH THE  
SUMMER PRIZE?**

Rachel Campbell-Johnston  
slays a pickled cow

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SIMON WALKER

Clarke pips Hague in second vote

## Tory rivals head for photo-finish

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

KENNETH CLARKE was the surprise victor in the second round of the Tory leadership contest last night, opening the way to a nailbiting final run-off against William Hague tomorrow.

The Shadow Chancellor polled 64 votes, two more than Mr Hague, while John Redwood was eliminated in spite of increasing his vote to 38.

A jubilant Mr Clarke was suddenly back in the race that some of his supporters believed he was almost certain to lose. And Mr Redwood was left as possible kingmaker, with many of his supporters waiting for a lead from him on how they should vote in the last round. He will decide today who he will vote for.

Last night he met both Mr Clarke and Mr Hague, and the intriguing prospect of Mr Clarke offering him the post of Shadow Chancellor in a previously unthinkable Left-Right "dream ticket" was being seriously floated by supporters of both men. The Clarke camp claimed that at least ten previous Redwood backers, including Teresa Gorman, had indicated that they would come over to him. Others are expected to abstain.

Peter Lilley, who switched to Mr Hague after the first round, is believed to be in line to be Shadow Chancellor if Mr Hague wins.

Mr Hague had been widely expected to finish in front of Mr Clarke in the second round, but his bandwagon appeared to have slowed after his suggestion at a meeting of Tory MPs on Monday night that Mr Clarke would have to agree to rule out joining a single currency for ten years if he was to serve in his Shadow Cabinet. Some rightwingers said that made it impossible for Mr Clarke to serve in the Shadow Cabinet and that the party could not afford to have him outside it.



Clarke: promising a "broad-based team"

**How Tory MPs voted**

Kenneth CLARKE	64
William HAGUE	62
John REDWOOD	38

Mr Hague nevertheless remained the favourite to achieve a narrow victory over Mr Clarke after what Mr Redwood predicted would be a gripping third round.

Within minutes of yesterday's result, Mr Redwood announced that both Mr Clarke and Mr Hague had already telephoned him. He said: "Kenneth Clarke got in first. I suppose you could say that Kenneth Clarke was a little bit better organised than William Hague, which might be a reason to vote for him. I haven't yet made up my mind — there is now a very difficult decision to make."

Mr Hague also proclaimed himself well satisfied with the outcome of the second ballot. "I think I now have the momentum and support to win the ballot on Thursday. That is what I will set out to do," he said. "And then I will set about the task of leading this party and uniting the party including all strands of opinion within it."

Peter Riddell, page 2  
Leading article, page 19

### Oxford votes for business school

Oxford does accepted plans for a business school and a £20 million donation from the Syrian-born benefactor Wafic Said. The 342 to 55 majority in Congregation came four days before Mr Said's deadline for withdrawing his offer if agreement could not be reached.

### Heavy hitters

Greg Rusedski, the British No 2, will meet the Australian Mark Philippoussis, the fastest server in the world, in the first round of Wimbledon, which begins on Monday.

Tim Henman, the British No 1, plays Daniel Nestor of Canada.

Nigel Lawson, page 17  
Letters, page 19

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## Millennium festival on verge of collapse

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The Millennium Exhibition in Greenwich is in danger of collapse as concern grows over the financial viability of the scheme.

Tony Blair and a small Cabinet group will meet tomorrow to decide whether to allow construction work to start on the centrepiece of the exhibition: a £20 million dome designed by the architect Sir

Richard Rogers. The Prime Minister and his colleagues will discuss a £500 million plan submitted by Millennium Central, which is responsible for fleshing out a blueprint for the grand scheme by the Millennium Commission.

Downing Street sources emphasised last night that the decision was too close to call: "It is in the balance. The overriding question is whether it is going to work."

Nigel Lawson, page 17  
Letters, page 19

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mount organised displays to continue to use the large fireworks, provided the organisers have appropriate safety training.

A Whitehall source said last night: "Ministers are also interested in banning small bangers. They frighten the elderly, are frequently thrown at pets by unruly youths and are not used in public displays. But they may need to consult more widely on this and they could be around for another year."

Mr Griffiths is to be joined tomorrow

for the launch of the proposals by Ruth Hattersley, widow of David Hattersley, the headmaster who was killed last year after a firework exploded in his face during a school display.

Mr Griffiths is to hold a three-month consultation with firework manufacturers and retailers. The regulations will be enforced by trading standards officers who will bring prosecutions against shops that break the law.

Ministers also hope to introduce

much tighter checks on the import of fireworks to keep out those that contravene British safety laws.

Mr Griffiths wants to reduce the number of injuries caused by fireworks. In December aerial shells and maroons were banned after three deaths last year.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents reported a total of 428 accidents at family or private firework parties last year compared with 263 five years ago.

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## Scottish play occupies centre stage as Tory party tragedy unfolds

**A**s the Tory Party bleeds, there has been an atmosphere at Westminster this week not unlike that surrounding a bad motorway smash. Outside Committee Room 14 yesterday, media folk and bystanders stood and gawped. Within, the Conservative Party lay wounded.

The predominant feelings were pain and doubt. MPs whispered in knots or slipped in and out to know the latest and to vote.

Passers-by hung ghoulishly around, speculating and mut-

tering. When the door briefly opened we tried to peer in.

Downstairs in the Chamber the scene served as a metaphor for the agonies which will face the Tories' new Leader. Yesterday was Scottish Leader. Yesterday was Scottish Leader. There were no Scottish Tories.

It is not just that the Party no longer represent Scotland and Wales; they no longer represent cities, either. Labour MP Norman Godman (Glasgow & Inverclyde) described the Principal Opposition as "a rural English Party."

"Rural and suburban"

would be fairer. Among the Tories I recognised the Members for Sevenoaks, Cotswold, Chipping Barnet, Maldon & Chelmsford E, North Essex, West Derbyshire, Staffordshire S, Surrey SW, Horsham, Skipton & Ripon, Bromley & Chislehurst, Worthing West, Louth & Hornsea, etc.

But Tories were determined to fly the flag. Putting in "prayer cards" to reserve seats, they foiled an attempt by the minority parties to

occupy the Front Bench and Dispatch Box.

Donald Dewar, Labour's new Scottish Secretary (he called the Scots Liberal Democrats' Leader, Jim Wallace, "my Hou Friend") — an interesting slip, shared Mr. Wallace's amusement at the Tory plight.

Prayer cards? "They're going to need the power of

prayer," said Dewar, "some of them are on their knees at the moment." Everyone laughed.

The most indignant opposition was provided by the Scottish National Party, their bright-eyed Leader, Alex Salmond, scathing about an Amsterdam deal for Scottish fishermen.

The Liberal Democrats, compromised by their associ-

ation with Labour, fall awkwardly between two stools: are they really challenging the Government, or just asking helpful supplementaries?

The Tories' predicament was odd. From their front and back benches came sharp questions which had Mr. Dewar's unimpressive ministerial team fumbling.

Bernard Jenkin (Essex N) tripped junior minister Sam Galbraith with an enquiry about unannounced health spending plans for Scotland.

"They're well laid out, well laid out," stammered Gal-

braith. Alan Clark (C, Kensington & Chelsea) relayed the astonishing claim that a Hyundai investment attracted to Scotland was costing the taxpayer £120,000 per job created. Dewar seemed ill at ease, tried to laugh it off, and failed.

**F**rancis Maude (Horsham) winded Malcolm Chisholm with a question about corruption in Glasgow Govan. Sir Peter Tapsell (Louth & Hornsea) heard no reply to an enquiry about extra spend-

ing in Scotland, and nor did Ann Winterton (Connelton). Her husband Nicholas stamped minister Henry McLeish when he asked why 72,000 Macclesfield electors get just one MP — himself — when only 55,000 elect the average Scottish Member.

In *Hansard* the Tory assault will read convincingly. The reality was different. Ministers shrug at Tory questions, give bad answers, but do not care if they are bested. The Tory party lacks not arguments but self-respect.



William Hague and his supporters Michael Howard, Gillian Shephard and Peter Lilley; and their rivals, Kenneth Clarke, with his supporters, including Stephen Dorrell, Sir Norman Fowler and Michael Heseltine

## Redwood's 'barmy army' may have last laugh in leadership contest

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tory MPs long mocked by their enemies in the party as John Redwood's "barmy army" today held the key to the leadership contest.

At least half of the 38 MPs who voted for John Redwood in yesterday's second ballot of the contest will, in tomorrow's final round, follow his example and back the candidate he anoints. Mr Redwood, while mocked by many MPs as an unelectable extremist, has earned almost fanatical loyalty from some of his supporters.

After the first ballot, Michael Howard and Peter Lilley, who withdrew from the contest, were unable to march large contingents of their own supporters into Mr Hague's camp. But Mr Redwood can deliver his men and women in round three.

Many Redwood supporters are enraged by the Howard



Redwood: could hold key to final round

between the two men.

Even before the first round of voting, many people in the Redwood campaign headquarters are dire. Mr Hague's friends believe that Mr Redwood's team were behind a spate of unsubstantiated rumours that the media were about to run exposés on his private life. It is a further bar to successful negotiations

strong leader. The word went up early on from the Redwood campaign headquarters last night: we have to stop Hague.

On cue, Teresa Gorman, the MP for Billericay who had the whip withdrawn because of her opposition to Maastricht, was one of the first to switch to Mr Clarke.

For years Kenneth Clarke

has been a hate figure of the Eurosceptics, and they now blame the Tories' election defeat on his refusal to oppose British membership of a single European currency.

But many had already decided last night to dismiss worries over Europe and back him because he is a heavy-hitter with long experience at the top.

Relations between the Redwood and the Hague campaign headquarters are dire. Mr Hague's friends believe that Mr Redwood's team were behind a spate of unsubstantiated rumours that the media were about to run exposés on his private life. It is a further bar to successful negotiations

between the two men.

Even before the first round of voting, many people in the Redwood campaign had described Mr Hague as the real danger. They branded him as untried, untested, and not a genuine rightwinger. Mr Clarke may be on the Left but many Redwood supporters regard him as principled and a

strong leader. The word went up early on from the Redwood campaign headquarters last night: we have to stop Hague.

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Redwood loyalists such as Julian Lewis, Owen Paterson, Oliver Letwin, John Wilkinson, and David Wilshire were also waiting to take their lead from Mr Redwood. Mr Lewis said: "I will wait and decide when John has made his mind up. Another key influence will be Iain Duncan Smith. Mr Redwood's highly respected campaign manager, who is an arch-Eurosceptic.

Mr Duncan Smith will make up his own mind independently of Mr Redwood but he has a strong following. He said: "John is in a powerful position. He has run an honourable campaign. Despite all the vilification of John Redwood as an extremist, he has

the Maastricht treaty, has also decided to back Mr Clarke. Andrew Robathan, who succeeded Nigel Lawson as the MP for Blaby, and is of the same generation as Mr Hague, may also vote for Mr Clarke.

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# Guide who cut corners killed friend, court told

BY ADRIAN LEE

A PROFESSIONAL mountain guide skimped on safety during an expedition in the French Alps, causing his inexperienced companion to fall 120ft to his death, a court was told yesterday.

David Cuthbertson wrongly abandoned accepted climbing procedure as he and Gerry Hedley edged towards the summit of Tour Ronde, a 12,000ft peak in the Mont Blanc Massif, it was alleged.

Mr Hedley's son, Daniel, 6, who was born nine months after the tragedy, is claiming £100,000 damages in an action which could have serious implications for outdoor pursuits. It is the first time a guide has been sued over a climbing death.

Mr Hedley's wife, Lynda Woodroffe, 48, of Kilburn, north London, who initiated the claim, had been due to join



Lynda Woodroffe and her son Daniel Hedley, 6. She had not been able to tell her husband she was pregnant

her husband on the climbing holiday the day after his death, when she planned to tell him that she was pregnant.

It was alleged that Mr Cuthbertson, 49, from Dores, Inverness, failed to provide a strong-enough anchor — or belay — on the ice face for his less-experienced companion. He used only one bin ice screw when standard climbing practice demanded two.

The High Court was told that the two men were friends. Mr Hedley, 41, an art restorer for the Courtauld Institute who also lectured at the University of London, and his wife of six years had attended Mr Cuthbertson's wedding party a few months earlier.

Mr Hedley had paid the guide £500 for the seven-day walking and climbing holiday and had completed a few

ascents without incident. On July 21 they spent the night in a hut after a 1½-hour climb from the base of the mountain and then set out to scale a 350m section of ice and rock at 4,000 metres. The two climbers were roped together with Mr Cuthbertson in the lead, when the ice gave way and the guide fell, dragging Mr Hedley off his anchor onto rocks below in an area known as the Narrows.

The guide, who fractured his knee, described yesterday how he became worried during the ascent as sunshine threatened to melt snow directly above them and dislodge rocks.

He decided to abandon the two screw procedure to save time and allow them to move quickly across the mountain face to the safety of overhanging rock, 120ft away. Inserting and removing the extra screw would have taken another two minutes. "I chose to get out of the line of fire as quickly as possible."

His voice breaking with emotion, Mr Cuthbertson, who denies negligence, said: "Gerry Hedley was my friend. I regret the incident but I still think I took the right action to get us both out of the way."

Mr Cuthbertson said he thought the state of the ice was good and the risk of himself falling on the relatively easy terrain was slight. At the time, just before 8am, the pair were some 600ft from the summit but Mr Hedley was tiring and had slowed the climb which had begun at 4.30am in darkness.

Kieran Coonan, QC, for the plaintiff, said: "You compromised your safety and gambled with the life of Mr Hedley. That is what boils down to isn't it?" But Mr Cuthbertson denied he had acted in a lazy or careless way.



"I think it is the opposite. I took a deliberate decision not to waste time." He feared being struck by a falling rock and killed. He agreed that he was aware that if he fell the implications for his companion were potentially disastrous.

Mr Coonan said that the fall was caused by an ice slide, known as "dinner plating". At

the time Mr Cuthbertson was edging across the mountain, 80ft above his friend, using his ice axe and crampon when suddenly, without any warning, all the ice beneath him gave way — a large area — and slid down the mountain. Despite Mr Cuthbertson's best efforts he could not gain any purchase on the side of the mountain. The full force of Mr

Cuthbertson's body weight and the shock force was transmitted probably directly to the anchor and then to Mr Hedley. The anchor was yanked out and Mr Hedley was swept down the mountain. He was killed instantly."

Mr Cuthbertson said: "It was the honest I had ever known it even though it was only 8.30 in the morning. I

Cuthbertson's body was

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## Woman killed her four-year-old son by salt poisoning

BY RICHARD DUCE

FOUR doctors failed to detect that a four-year-old boy was slowly being poisoned by his mother who faced his drinks with lethal levels of salt, a court was told yesterday.

Caroline Lloyd had a severe personality disorder, similar to that of the convicted murderer Beverly Allitt, when over ten days she deliberately added high doses of salt to the fizzy drinks which eventually killed her son Christopher. She even prevented him from drinking fresh water, the court was told.

Lloyd, 26, was yesterday jailed for life after she admitted manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility. She suffers from Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy and her condition is so severe that psychiatrists decided it could not be treated in hospital.

While Lloyd's husband was at work, Christopher is thought to have been dosed in total with 125 grammes of salt which made him suffer vomiting, diarrhoea, and stomach cramps. Christopher Hutton, QC, for the prosecution, told Oxford Crown Court.

Stuart Lloyd, Christopher's stepfather, became worried about the boy's health, and took him to four different GPs during the following week. None of them diagnosed the problem, and the boy was prescribed mild sedatives, and even antibiotics.

On one occasion, a day after the poisoning started in February last year, Christopher was taken to Newcross Hospital close to the family home in Wolverhampton, but discharged the next day after his system was flushed out. Mr Hutton said: "Sadly, no blood test was taken whilst he was an in-patient. If it had been,



Lloyd: has a severe personality disorder

## Boy, 14, is locked up for killing 82-year-old

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A BOY aged 14 who murdered his friend's great-grandmother while drunk was detained without limit of time yesterday. David Millar killed Lucy Marshall, 82, with a single stab wound from her own breadknife.

Millar, of Cowdenbeath, Fife, pleaded guilty to the murder. The Crown accepted that an original charge of raping the woman be deleted, and a plea of not guilty to assaulting Mrs Marshall's home help and attempting to prevent her speaking to police, was also accepted.

The case was dealt with in minutes by Lord Cameron of Lochbroom in the High Court in Edinburgh, unbeknown to the victim's family, who had turned up to see the killer sentenced. Mrs Marshall's daughters Isobel Campbell and Velma Ward said they were angry they had not been able to see the killer.

Mrs Ward said: "We are still in the dark about how and why my mother died. A lot of what we heard is just rumours. We were hoping to hear everything in court, but now we won't. It's heartbreaking not knowing what happened to my mum. We will have to go to our graves not knowing exactly what happened to her or why he killed her."

Millar had told police after killing Mrs Marshall, also from Cowdenbeath, that he had been drinking Buckfast, the tonic wine brewed by the Benedictine monks of Buckfast Abbey in Devon. The drink has been blamed for encouraging teenage alcoholism.

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## Bus firm's sale 'aided by corrupt official'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A CORRUPT bank official was rewarded with a £1 million bribe from the windfall profits earned when the privatised British Bus Company was sold yesterday.

Ian Harvey, a senior account manager with the First National Bank of Boston, has spent every penny of the £600,000 he received on account, said Richard Latham, QC, for the prosecution. Most of it went on the purchase of a £400,000 home.

The man who bribed Mr Harvey was Dawson Williams, then a director of British Bus, who received £9.4 million for his shares in the company. Mr Latham said.

Mr Williams, of Ringwood, Hampshire, and Mr Harvey, of Little Hadham, Hertfordshire, both deny conspiracy to corrupt between January 1992 and August 1994. Mr Harvey alone denies corruption relating to the £600,000.

Mr Latham said that three other directors of British Bus also became overnight millionaires but that there was nothing illegal in their gains.

He explained that from 1993 Mr Harvey helped Mr Williams and the British Bus company by issuing letters to the company auditors which effectively gave the company a "clean bill of health".

The letters stated that the First National Bank of Boston was prepared to make available any shortfall in cash flow requirements. "In other words you can have as much money as you need," Mr Latham said. The bank was never told about the letters.

The letters were of great help to the company and British Bus emerged as a very attractive entity indeed. Mr Latham said. In mid-1994 two companies specialising in venture capital made the offer for British Bus shares, making its directors millionaires overnight. The trial continues.



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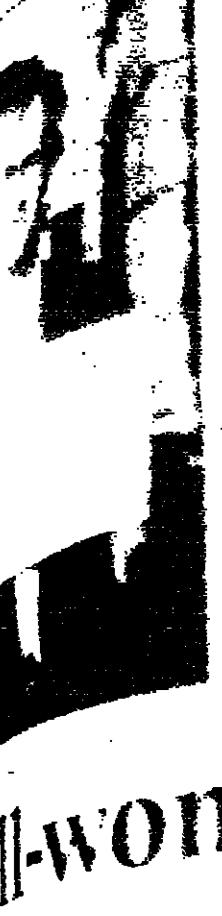
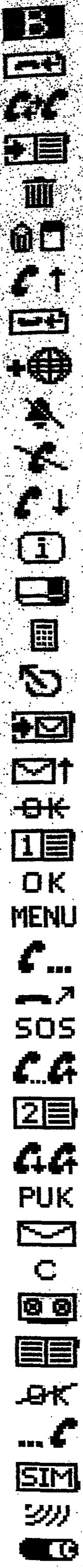


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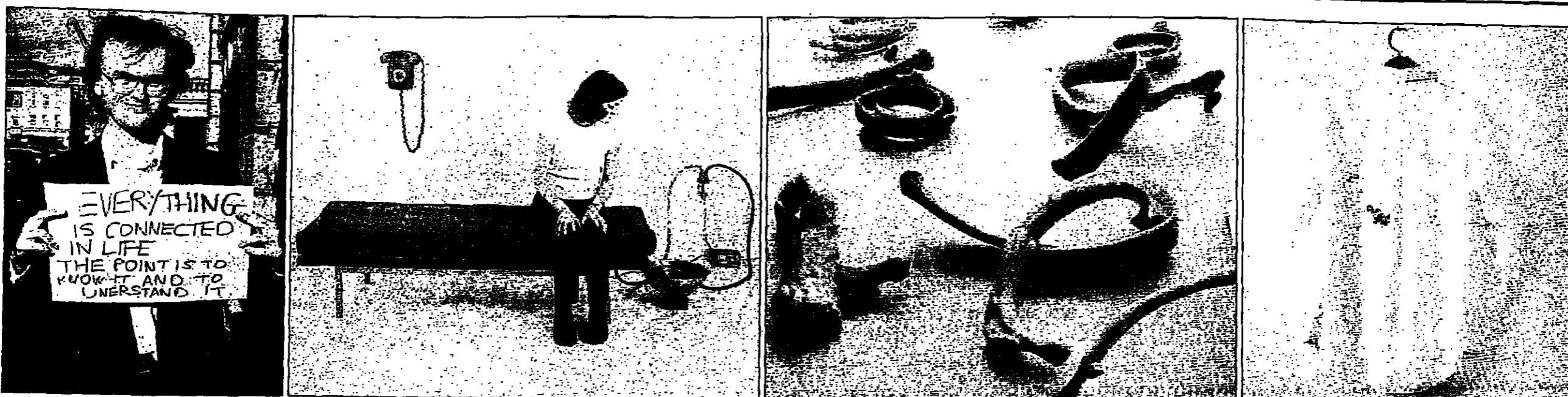
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Works by this year's four Turner Prize finalists include: Gillian Wearing's *Signs* (1992-93), Angela Bulloch's *Workbench* (1996), Christine Borland's *Bison-Bison* (1997), and Cornelia Parker's *Shirt burnt by a meteorite*

## All-women shortlist takes Turner by surprise

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE judges for the £20,000 Turner Prize this year have again come up with shortlist of artists who specialise in mind-boggling creations. The difference this time is that the four finalists, all conceptual artists, are women. Last year they were men.

After Damien Hirst's dead animals in formaldehyde and Vong Phaphumi's room filled with rice, the prize is no stranger to controversy.

Cornelia Parker exhibited a man's white shirt on a coat-hanger and dangled bits of silver cutlery from the White Cliffs of Dover. Christine Borland's works include a human skeleton. Gillian Wearing's most recent work, called *Id-16*, was a video of adult actors lip-synching to a soundtrack of adolescents. A dwarf in a bath was shown

saying he would like to kill his mother. The fourth finalist is Angela Bulloch, who once invited the public to sit on a bench and watch brown liquid flow through a tube.

Critics of the prize immediately poured scorn on the selection. Some attacked the jurors for being politically correct in choosing women after last year's all-male shortlist. Others lamented the exclusion of painters or sculptors who make things themselves. A number felt that they had seen it all before: barriers were broken long ago by Marcel Duchamp's urinal of 1917 and Joseph Beuys's man's felt suit of 1970.

Danny Katz, a dealer in Old Master sculpture and a collector of contemporary art, was angry. "I hate it," he said. Delineating a conceptual work of his



The artists on the shortlist, from left: Gillian Wearing, Angela Bulloch, Christine Borland and Cornelia Parker

own, he recommended that some artist lay down a canvas on a pavement and dive into it from a multi-storey building. "He could call it 'self-portrait' and put an end to it. One less artist to think about. One less artist to stop creating this absolute rubbish."

Philomena Davidson-Da-

vies, of the Royal Society of Sculptors, said: "Is this really a true reflection of the talent out there?" She dismissed artists who took a ready-made object and "plotted it down to represent a notional idea".

David Lee, editor of *Art Review*, said: "It's the usual freak show." He criticised the

Tate for promoting a "state academy" of such artists. One observer asked: "Are there no boundaries?" The criteria seems to be the ability to shock rather than creating a work of art in the conventional sense — something of quality. There is nothing original about taking an everyday object out of its original context."

Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery and chairman of the jury, said: "It is fair to say that the jury had no plans to make a shortlist of four women artists any more than last year, when they formed a shortlist of four male ones." The choice reflected personal

enthusiasms, he said. Cornelia Parker, who exhibited the shirt, is best known for collaborating with Tilda Swinton on a work that involved the actress sleeping for a week in the Serpentine Gallery. The Tate judges noted how "her means of transformation" had included throwing things off the White Cliffs and running them over with a steamroller to create "symbolic representations, evocative and rich in possible associations".

The artist explained: "I like to kill something off symbolically then resurrect it, blowing things up, throwing things off cliffs, having trains and a steamroller run over things."

For the judges, Gillian Wearing's work reveals the "strange or disturbing realities that lie beneath the apparently calm surface of everyday appearances". Christine Borland's work with bones

was described as "notably imaginative and original, with results which are sometimes shocking and always haunting in effect".

Angela Bulloch uses a wide range of media, including mechanical and electronic devices such as floor-mats that activate taped voices as people stand on them. Her work reveals people's incurable urge to control each other, the judges said. She uses sensing devices to feed back the spectator's own actions into the work. The judges spoke of her "symbolic representations of the limited freedoms of the individual in society".

The winner of the prize will be announced at the Tate on December 2. An exhibition by the short-listed artists will be shown at the gallery from October 29 to January 18.

Sacred cows, page 18

### GP uses cell as surgery for violent patient

BY IAN MURRAY

A GP has accepted a patient on to his list providing that consultations take place in a police cell fitted with a panic button. The case highlights growing violence among medical staff, with at least 1,000 GPs assaulted every year.

The issue is to be raised today at the British Medical Association's annual conference for GPs, which is expected to deplore the lack of secure treatment facilities for violent patients.

Christopher Trower, GP medical adviser to Buckinghamshire Health Authority, agreed to see the violent patient in a cell because none of the seven practices in Aylesbury, where the man lived, was prepared to treat him.

Last autumn the patient was jailed for eight months for causing actual bodily harm and damaging a surgery. "For the past three years no practice in the town would have him voluntarily, so he was being revolved between them every week," Dr Trower said. "He would turn up at about five in the evening and storm into the surgery, interrupting consultations. He was usually drunk and violent."

Dr Trower took the man on to his own list. "We have had three appointments so far and they have all passed off peacefully," he said.

A BMA survey last year found that 1,000 patients a year are removed from GPs' lists because of violence.

### Football Association tests nine-year-olds for drugs

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FOOTBALL players as young as nine are being routinely tested by the Football Association for drugs, including cocaine, a national police conference was told yesterday.

The youngsters are screened as part of a programme of random testing for all 2,000 professional players, 1,445 teenage trainees and 10,000 promising junior players attending training schools run by clubs. One of the targets for the tests is 12 to 13-year-olds because recreational drug use is starting at an increasingly young age. Players under 16 are tested only with parental approval and will be counselled about drug use rather than face disciplinary action.

So far the youngest player found to be using drugs was 17. But FA officials were also called in when a 12-year-old in a club training scheme was discovered by police to be using cannabis.

The tests, which began in the 1994-95 season, were

described yesterday by FA officials at a conference on drug problems organised by the Association of Chief Police Officers at Hinckley, Leicestershire. Alan Hodson, head of the programme, said they were intended to deter players, who were often role models for the young.

Mr Hodson said the FA introduced the tests to check for performance-enhancing drugs but officials do not think this is a problem. He said the main concern was recreational drug use. Mr Hodson said in the first season 272 tests were carried out and there were 12 positive results. These included six professional players and six youth players. In the second season the same number of tests were done but there were seven positive results, including four professionals. In the latest season the number of tests increased to 500 and there were five positive tests, including two professional players. Two cocaine

users were banned from playing.

Keith Hellawell, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire and the national police spokesman on drugs, told the conference that he did not believe any European country would relax its drug laws in the next decade. George Howard, the Junior Home Office Minister, said the Government would consider neither legalisation nor decriminalisation of any drug.

But Howard Parker, a Professor of Sociology at the University of Manchester and an expert on drug research,

called for a drugs education programme for the over thirties so that there could be a debate about drug policy without hysteria. He said programmes aimed at stopping the young using drugs cost £280 million a year yet almost half of all 16-year-olds have tried drugs. Britain has the biggest youth drug market in Europe.

DIANA, Princess of Wales, took her new-found diplomatic skills to Washington yesterday where she was joined by Elizabeth Dole, president of the American Red Cross, in her international campaign for a worldwide ban on landmines.

The Princess and Mrs Dole, wife of the former Republican presidential candidate, were holding talks before an evening gala at the National Museum of Women in the Arts to raise money for landmine victims.

Although the issue has become something of a *cause célèbre* in America, attracting luminaries such as General Norman Schwarzkopf, the Gulf War commander, the Princess is unlikely to find much support among senior government officials. Neither President Clinton nor Vice-President Al Gore is prepared to oppose military advisers at the Pentagon who believe the mines protect troops.

### Princess extends campaign

BY TOM RHODES

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Peter Vardy, a philosopher and theologian at London University, surveyed 3,000 teenagers across England and Scotland. They were asked to indicate whether they belonged to a religious group.

Asked whether it was morally wrong for an unmarried couple in a long-term relationship to make love, agnostics and atheists took the most liberal view, as expected, with nearly all responding "no".

Most young people, including Catholics, believe there is nothing wrong with artificial birth control, sex before marriage or practising homosexuality, the report says.

The survey of A-level students aged 16-18 will make depressing reading for those in the churches attempting to uphold traditional standards of sexual morality. It suggests that on issues such as contraception and premarital sex, the churches are fighting a losing battle and that a large gulf exists between what they preach and what youngsters practise.

Peter Vardy, a philosopher and theologian at London University, surveyed 3,000 teenagers across England and Scotland. They were asked to

arrived, a man wanted by the police was recognised in a car driving down Ascot High Street. An officer knocked on the window and asked the four occupants to get out, but the car took off at speed.

Tariq Javed, who was wanted on a committal warrant by officers in Reading, was arrested with two others after a three-mile chase.

Racing reports, page 42

### Religious teenagers take permissive line on sex

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THERE is little difference between the views of young Roman Catholics, Anglicans, atheists and agnostics on issues of sexual morality, according to a report to be published next month.

Most young people, including Catholics, believe there is nothing wrong with artificial birth control, sex before marriage or practising homosexuality, the report says.

The survey of A-level students aged 16-18 will make depressing reading for those in the churches attempting to uphold traditional standards of sexual morality. It suggests that on issues such as contraception and premarital sex, the churches are fighting a losing battle and that a large gulf exists between what they preach and what youngsters practise.

More than nine out of ten Catholics, Anglicans, agnostics and atheists did not agree that artificial birth control was always morally wrong. There was more uncertainty over the "morning-after" pill: nearly half the Catholics surveyed said that it was morally worse than a barrier method of contraception.

On adultery, the religious teenagers had a stricter moral code than their peers. Half the

atheists surveyed thought there were circumstances that could make adultery morally right, compared to less than a third of Anglicans and Catholics. The survey, *The Puzzle of Sex*, will be published next month by HarperCollins.

Bishops in the Church of England will issue a statement tomorrow warning that they will oppose amendments to a resolution on homosexuality when it is debated at the General Synod in York next month. The resolution demands the bishops' 1991 report *Issues in Human Sexuality*, which insists on celibacy for homosexual clergy but takes a more liberal line for the laity. The motion calls for the report to be discussed in dioceses.

Evangelicals and Catholics in the Church have long been dissatisfied with the report. At least one amendment has been tabled demanding that the synod reaffirm traditional biblical morality, which opposes practising homosexuality.

### Record crowd crowns Queen Mother's Ascot visit

THERE was warm applause and a few tears from the record number of racegoers at the first day of Royal Ascot yesterday as Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother abandoned her familiar motorised buggy to walk through the crowds to the Royal Enclosure (Emma Wilkins writes).

Accompanied by the Princess Royal, the Queen Mother charmed to owners and trainers before walking 300 yards from the paddock to the Royal Box

without sticks or assistance. The Queen Mother had used the buggy to arrive at the paddock but waved it aside for the return journey.

Members of the royal party arrived at the racecourse in the traditional carriage procession. The Queen, in a pale pink lightweight wool coat dress, trimmed with white piping and a hat of white straw with pale pink band and a small bunch of lilies of the valley, shared the first carriage with

the Duke of Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Gloucester.

The Queen Mother, who was wearing a mauve coat over a floral dress, was in the second carriage with the Princess Royal, who was dressed in an electric-blue outfit. Princess Margaret and the Duchess of Gloucester followed in the third carriage.

The crowd of 49,088 was a record for an opening day, and 7.6 per cent up on last year. Before the Queen

arrived, a man wanted by the police was recognised in a car driving down Ascot High Street. An officer knocked on the window and asked the four occupants to get out, but the car took off at speed.

Tariq Javed, who was wanted on a committal warrant by officers in Reading, was arrested with two others after a three-mile chase.

Racing reports, page 42

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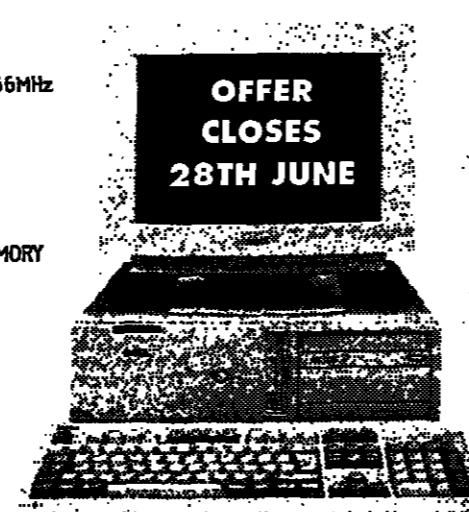
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# Oxford dows vote to accept plans for business school

By DAVID CHARTER,  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

**OXFORD** dows voted overwhelmingly yesterday to accept plans for a business school and with it a £20 million donation from the Syrian-born benefactor Wafic Said.

The 342 to 55 majority in Congregation, the dows' parliament, came just four days before Mr Said's deadline for withdrawing his offer if agreement could not be reached. In November a stormy meeting of Congregation threw out the original plans amid concern over its siting on university sports fields. Mr Said's background as an arms-deal negotiator and his level of control over the business school.

The university came back yesterday with a new site and watered down Mr Said's influence on the business school foundation, which nevertheless remains the main focus of opposition.

Dr Peter North, Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, said that the 7-1 majority demonstrated the university's "wholehearted support" for the £45 million



Said: previous plan had been rejected

project. He said it would help to secure another multi-million-pound donation that would be a "substantial contribution" towards the £9 million shortfall on building costs. He refused to name the donor, whose support still rested on approval of the architect's plans.

Professor John Kay, director of the Said Business School, who had threatened to resign if dows rejected the plans, said that the size of the vote showed Oxford had accepted manage-

ment studies as a viable discipline. Professor Kay said: "This result is as good as we could have hoped for. There are 55 people in Oxford who would oppose anything you put forward."

He said the business school could open its doors as early as 2000. "I think there is now no reason for this not going ahead. Most of the speakers against were hiding behind rather imaginary technicalities in order to disguise their opposition to management studies, and basically Congregation saw through that. We will now create a world-class business school which will demonstrate the importance and vitality of management studies to the university, to the local business community at large, and to the world."

The new site is on land used as a car park next to Oxford's main railway station. Mr Said's original plan to appoint six of the business school's ten trustees was changed to four. Four trustees are to be provided by the university and two independently.

Opposition to the business

school was yesterday led by Alexander Murray, a medieval history don at University College. He objected to the foundation's power to veto the appointment of the business school director. John Finnis, Professor of Law and Legal Philosophy, said the university had set a precedent of surrendering its academic autonomy to "any donor who pushes hard enough".

But several speakers insisted that the university had addressed all the major objections raised in November. Dr Colin Lucas, the Vice-Chancellor-elect, said: "The question is not whether there should be a management school. It exists already. The question is whether it will flourish and grow with necessary speed into a school of great international reputation."

Professor Sir Richard Sedgewick, the previous Vice-Chancellor, described Mr Said's offer as a "win-win situ-

ation" and gave warning that there would be no third chance to renegotiate terms. John Fleming, Warden of Wadham College, said that Mr Said's conditions, which included a place on the day-to-day management committee of the school, were a small price to pay. Mr Fleming said: "It is donations mainly from people in business which are crucial to the sustenance of Oxford's distinctive collegiate and tutorial system."

Congregation yesterday accepted proposals for a business school, and a donation from Wafic Said, who had set a deadline for agreement

## Six-figure salary engenders envy among academics

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

**OPPONENTS** of the new Oxford business school fear that the project could herald the start of an egalitarian pay structure. Oxford and Cambridge have been struggling to recruit leading academics under an antiquated pay structure that puts all professors on a basic salary of about £40,000.

Although the ancient universities have discretionary arrangements for high-fliers, they have been unable to match the packages offered by rivals in the United States and even some in Britain.

The six-figure salary that will be paid to Professor John Kay as the business school's first director caused envy around Oxford. Other appointments are also expected to be far above the university norm, bringing pressure on a system designed to foster a collegiate spirit.

British universities have been free since 1989 to negotiate their professorial salaries. Many took advantage of this flexibility to enter the so-called "transfer market" for academics to boost their research ratings. Oxford and Cambridge remained largely above the fray.

Surveys of academic pay carried out by *The Times Higher Education Supplement*

suggest that about 200 people in British higher education command six-figure salaries. Most are clinical academics or vice-chancellors.

The pay gap between these top earners and lecturers has been growing by the year. Academic salaries still start at less than £20,000 a year and the top of the lecturing scale remains below £30,000.

At Oxford, even the vice-chancellor is paid less than £80,000 a year. Many of the 360 professors rely on extra income from consultancy work and college posts to match the salaries paid in other universities.

Dr Peter North, Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, acknowledged yesterday that the university struggled to offer competitive salaries in areas such as management. But he said there was sufficient flexibility in the university's salary structure to address the problem successfully.

Alexander Murray, the medieval historian who was among the principal opponents of the scheme, said he was concerned at the impact of "City-type salaries" on the balance of the university. But Professor Kay said it would be impossible to build a successful business school if pay uniformity were imposed.

## Holocaust education pack for schools

By LIN JENKINS

**SURVIVORS** of the Holocaust living in Britain have used their personal histories to help to put together an education pack for 13-year-olds.

The work, which took academics, survivors of the Nazi genocide, educationists and film-makers a year and a half to complete, is designed to fill what they see as a woeful gap in the knowledge of many secondary school teachers. It includes startling images as well as facsimiles of government documents and newspaper reports.

A series of colour wallcharts depict various subjects including the locations of all the extermination, labour, transit and concentration camps. There is particular emphasis on the labour camps in the Channel Islands, to give the subject immediacy for children in Britain.

The Holocaust Education Trust and the Spiro Institute, a Jewish educational and cultural body, which jointly produced the pack, say that many teachers know so little about the Holocaust that they find it hard to meet the requirements of the national curriculum, under which the subject is compulsory. Jon Mendelsohn, head of the trust, said:

"Schools have been asking for help because the material available was severely limited."

A guide for teachers has been provided and the pack gives suggested lesson plans, essay titles and discussion topics. The accompanying video can be shown in sections to fit in with lesson planning.

Sean Lang, honorary secretary of the Historical Association and head of history at Hills Road Sixth Form College, Cambridge, welcomed a pack on the Holocaust, saying that it was important that pupils should have such good resources. The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority welcomed the pack but did not agree that the subject was being inadequately covered.

## Cambridge wins £60m backing for Silicon Fen

By JOHN O'LEARY

**THE** software company Microsoft yesterday launched a £50 million quest with Cambridge University to create a computer with common sense.

Cambridge was picked from dozens of universities in Europe to be the Californian company's first overseas research base. Microsoft will invest up to £10 million into local companies in an attempt to create a "Silicon Fen".

Professor Alec Broers, Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge, said the university would soon have a centre of high technology to rival the best in the world. The launch of the scheme was attended by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade.

Tasks set by Microsoft for the 40-strong research team will include making computers more understanding of owners' needs. Nathan Myhrvold, a Cambridge graduate and Microsoft's chief technology officer, said: "Computers still have an arcane structure. We see them being softer, more forgiving, having some degree of common sense."

The laboratory will open in August in rented premises. Professor Broers said the university's main contribution was likely to be in land and premises rather than cash, and would not be of a size to limit the university's activities in other spheres.



Broers: said laboratory would be world leader





# Catholics and Protestants unite to mourn policemen

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, IN LURGAN, AND AUDREY MAGEE

HUNDREDS of Protestants and Catholics stood shoulder to shoulder outside the RUC station in Lurgan yesterday to pay tribute to the two police officers who were murdered by the IRA.

Pensioners, mothers and children came from opposite sides of the divided town to leave flowers outside the police station and to sign four books of condolences. Amid an array of bouquets lay messages that showed Northern Ireland's revulsion at Monday's murder of Constable John Graham, 34, and Constable David Johnston, 30.

One message said: "From a sincere and disgusted Catholic," another Catholic wrote: "My blood runs cold at this dreadful act. Deepest sympathy."

The shootings, which dealt a devastating blow to the search for peace, united all shades of political opinion in condemnation of Sinn Fein and the IRA. In one of his strongest attacks on the republican movement, John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, said in Dublin: "Those who carried this out are trying

to destroy the peace process." Mr Hume was speaking after talks with Bertie Ahern, the leader of Fianna Fail, who said that he would meet Sinn Fein only to discuss an IRA ceasefire. Mr Ahern made clear that he would refuse to meet Sinn Fein after June 26, when he is likely to be elected Taoiseach by the Irish Parliament after this month's general election.

In Lurgan, people queued outside the heavily fortified station, where the Union Jack flew at half-mast, to sign the books of condolences laid out on tables by the cross-community Lurgan Inter-Friendship Group. As the clock on the nearby Anglican church struck midday, hundreds of people observed two minutes of silence in memory of the constables who were shot a few yards away. Wilson Freeburn, the chairman of the group, said at an ecumenical service that local people regarded the killings as a "personal bereavement".

Close to tears, Mr Freeburn said: "The people who carried out this deed inflicted a severe wound on the people of Lurgan because the two constables put on the face of the local RUC that we came to love and understand and respect. It is time that the silent majority became much more vocal. We need to shout much louder than the paramilitary groups or political parties so that we can find the peace we desire in our nation."

During the service Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, held talks inside the station with Freddie Hall, the RUC Assistant Chief Constable for the Southern Region, and David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader and local MP. Dr Mowlam left the base to sign a book of condolences.

Pastor Edward Betts, speaking after visiting Constable Graham's widow, Rosemary, said that their three daughters, aged 10, 7 and 2, were devastated. "One of the children questioned why and who, while the other just melted into tears at every available opportunity." Pastor Betts, of Tandragee Baptist Church in Co Armagh, said that Mrs

Graham was "a very, very fine girl and she is coping remarkably well".

The Rev Malcolm Scott, who was Constable Johnston's minister, broke down as he recalled a "fine lad" who had time for everybody. He said the policeman had been in the process of moving house with his wife and two young sons.

Mr Scott said: "This really has cut right through the family. He had at least as many Catholic as Protestant friends and was very upset when a Catholic friend of his was beaten to death a few years ago. The last thing he would have wanted was retaliation." The RUC last night cancelled its annual sports day out of respect for the men.

Detectives yesterday arrested a man on the nationalist Kilwihe estate, where they had searched several houses after a car used by the killers was found burnt out. Police said the green Rover had been bought locally last Wednesday.

Leading article, page 19



Mo Mowlam signing a book of condolences provided outside Lurgan police station by a cross-sectarian group

## MoD seeks new doctor to fill Gulf War hot seat

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Ministry of Defence is searching for a senior doctor to take charge of assessing veterans with Gulf War illnesses after the second unexpected departure from the sensitive post.

The first doctor to hold the job, Group Captain Bill Coker, asked to be moved after three years. He denied claims by veterans that he had been pushed out because he was becoming too sympathetic to their cause.

The second, Lieutenant-Colonel Banu Bhatt, took a tough line but resigned last week after only six months. He had faced a torrent of complaints about his assessment of the servicemen and is now said to be under stress.

The role of chief medical examiner of the Gulf War veterans has become highly controversial. At first the MoD dismissed any suggestion that the veterans could be suffering from a Gulf War syndrome, directly related to the 1991 conflict. Now the ministry's official position is to be "open-minded". However, the experience of Colonel Bhatt has served as a grim warning to his successor of the pitfalls of the job.

Countess Mar, who has led a personal campaign to "discover the truth" about the Gulf veterans' health problems, said that some of them had become disillusioned with Colonel Bhatt's attitude. "The

Gulf veterans were not happy with him," she said. "For example, he dismissed the notion that organophosphate pesticides could have caused sickness."

The belated announcement that these toxic pesticides had been used widely to spray all the tents in Saudi Arabia led to an apology in the Commons by Nicholas Soames, then Armed Forces Minister, who had not been told by his officials until September last year that his previous statements about organophosphates had been inaccurate.

Countess Mar has tabled a question in the House of Lords asking about the sale of army surplus tents used in the Gulf War. She said: "Two people who bought these tents have now gone down with organophosphate poisoning."

Group Captain Coker, now on detachment to Bolling US Air Force base in Washington, insisted yesterday that he had left the job in January, at his own request. Now he has been persuaded by John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, to provide part-time advice as a member of a new group monitoring progress on the Gulf War health inquiries.

Meanwhile the number of cases has been increasing. By last December, 1,070 veterans had been assessed and 180 were waiting. By February, 1,300 had been seen but the waiting list had grown to 340.



Fossil bones prove the jungle cat once lived in Essex

## Did kitty come from the Essex marshes?

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

FOSSILISED bones found alongside the A13 have proved that jungle cats once prowled the Essex marshes.

The species, found today in Egypt and Asia, coexisted 200,000 years ago with lions, rhinos, mammoths, brown bears and wolves. Danielle Schreve, a palaeontologist, says:

"The jungle cat, *Felis chaus*, which is larger than a modern wild cat but smaller than a lynx, may have been one of the ancestors of the domesticated tabby. It is still abundant around the edges of human settlements in Egypt and could have contributed to the ancestry of kitty." Ms Schreve says.

The fossils were found as part of an excavation funded by the Highways Agency and carried out by the field archaeology group of Essex County Council. The A13 is being widened at Aveley and the excavation is to establish

the presence of any interesting remains before the macadam covers them.

The team found one of the cat's front legs, consisting of the humerus, radius and ulna bones, the longest of which is 13 cm. The jungle cat, which has a short tail and pointed ears, would have lived in the margins of the marshland, catching small mammals, birds and frogs.

Miss Schreve, 25, a PhD student at University College London, who also is consultant palaeontologist to Essex County Council, said: "It is a really exciting find because we had no idea this cat had ever reached Britain."

Archaeologists believe that animals were not domesticated until man began forming settlements about 10,000 years ago but since pet cats are anatomically very similar to wild ones, it is difficult to date the emergence of the domestic cat with precision.

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JPM10120

# Fires on cruise ship ignite an old-fashioned mystery

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH  
ON BOARD VICTORIA

BRITISH investigators boarded the cruise liner *Victoria* in the German port of Rostock last night to investigate two fires. Arson was not being ruled out.

The fire service experts had flown out from England to board the vessel before it weighed anchor and set course for Copenhagen during a tour of the Baltic with more than 670 passengers, most of them British.

The *Victoria* is the smallest ship in the P&O fleet and its cosy elegance harks back to a gentler era before today's great superliners. Agatha Christie's detective Hercule Poirot would not be out of place twiddling his moustache in the panelled library as he mulled over the case after a kipper breakfast.

The second incident was the more serious, occurring early yesterday when a fire broke out in an office of the food and beverage department. Stuart Barber, a member of the crew working for the department, was trapped in an adjoining cabin and raised the alarm.



The *Victoria*, built in 1965, carries a crew of 400

He was freed by firefighters and was said to be shaken but unharmed.

The first fire broke out in the early hours of Sunday after the ship had left St Petersburg.

A computer recording passengers' bar bills was melted — although the ship is understood to have a copy of the records. Nobody was injured.

Steve Burgoine, the captain, said that the incidents would not prevent him from sailing last night after spending yesterday in Rostock while passengers visited Berlin. "I am perfectly happy to sail the ship," he said. "There is nothing wrong with the ship." He said that the events of the past few days were unusual. In

both incidents he had called full crew alerts and had experienced only five such alerts in 32 years at sea.

"It could be a big coincidence. I'm not ruling out anything," he said. "I don't know how the fire was caused. Everything points to a cigarette or spontaneous combustion, or somebody starting the fire." He added: "I don't see any risk to passengers and crew. I am going to double up my patrols and watches and take a keener interest." Last night he was planning to address passengers to reassure them that the ship was safe.

Captain Burgoine said that the *Victoria* had the latest fire detection and fighting equipment. The ship goes into dry dock in November for a refit to meet a deadline for further safety improvements laid down by international maritime regulators.

The investigators searching for clues last night were from the fire service in Hampshire because the two-week cruise had departed from Southampton last week. The investigators' verdict was not expected until at least tonight.

The 28,000-tonne ship, which carries 400 crew and a maximum of almost 800 passengers, was built in 1965 and is now ageing and old-fashioned by the standards of younger superliners.

However, like her sister ship *Canberra*, which is bowing out of service later this year, she commands fierce loyalty among passengers, especially those of a certain age. Many of those on the current voyage have cruised many times on the *Victoria*.

There were no indications last night among those snoozing quietly in the lounges that they planned to disembark before the boat returned to Southampton.



The lido on the liner, whose elegance engenders loyalty among older passengers

## Paedophile claim man bailed

A police investigation was under way last night into the claims of a man who said on live television that he had had sex with boys. The 36-year-old was released on bail yesterday pending inquiries by Scotland Yard's Paedophile Unit.

A police source said last night: "We are taking this very seriously." The man, who has not been named by police, claimed on the BBC1 programme *Kilroy* that he had sex with up to 18 boys. Officers acting on a tip-off arrested him as he left the Teddington studios in south-west London on Monday.

### Double blow

A mother's house was burgled hours after her year-old baby was badly hurt in a fire. Karen Allinson, from Leeds, learnt of the break-in as she sat with her daughter Jessica in hospital. Jessica was saved by two youths who climbed a drainpipe and smashed a window to reach her.

### Mobiles opposed

Four out of five people want drivers to be banned from using hand-held mobile phones, a Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents survey says. The society said there had been at least four deaths where a mobile phone had been implicated. "We don't want to see any more."

### Beatles grant

The National Trust has won a £47,500 National Lottery grant towards restoring Sir Paul McCartney's former home, a council house where he composed his first songs and the Beatles practised. The terrace house in Allerton, Liverpool, will be opened to visitors next year.

### Airport challenge

Matt Benson, 23, who spent 17 nights in a tunnel at Manchester Airport's second runway, has promised to continue protests and break his record for staying underground. Protesters are today to seek leave in the High Court to challenge the decision to approve the runway.

### Youths cautioned

Twelve teenagers have been cautioned by police over the circulation of forged bus passes and identity cards. The youths from two high schools and a college on the Isle of Wight were questioned after it was found that passes under a scheme subsidised by the council were being forged.

### Dangerous dog

Two women were slightly hurt when they were knocked down by a car apparently being driven by a bull terrier. While the dog's owner was visiting friends in Dorchester, the terrier jumped into the front of the car, broke the handbrake and knocked the vehicle out of gear.

## Woman passed as American serviceman

By RICHARD DUCE

FOR more than six months an English woman disguised herself as an American serviceman and hoodwinked military police at a US airbase so that she could be close to her sweetheart.

A newspaper cutting has been discovered in which Teresa Smith recounts how she cut her blonde hair and mingled with servicemen based at Burtonwood, near Warrington. Now the Burtonwood Association is anxious to trace Miss Smith, who is believed to have married and moved to the American Midwest in the 1950s.

In an interview with *The American Weekly* in 1954, Miss Smith told how in a time of postwar austerity she was smitten by the apparently luxurious lifestyle of the American serviceman. She snuggled herself on to the base to see her boyfriend and spent so much time there that she lost her job as a nursing assistant.

Over a game of cards with five airmen it was decided as a dare that she should see how long she could pass herself off as one of them. Her bravado ran to standing in the rear rank during morning roll call and eating in the mess. "I had the devil in me then," she told the American paper.

The romance ended but Miss Smith is believed to have married James Viars, another serviceman at the base. If alive she would be 65.

## Outburst lands cox in hot water

By RICHARD DUCE

CAMBRIDGE University's winning Boat Race cox, a self-confessed hothead, was fined and banned from traditional end-of-year races after directing a violent outburst at a rival.

Only an immediate appeal by Kevin Whyman allowed him to compete in last weekend's May Bumps final on the River Cam. Whyman, 21, the Peterhouse cox, lost his temper with Rob Stanforth, the Emmanuel College cox, after claiming his crew was being impeded after a race. He swore and threatened to have oars broken over the backs of the rival crew.

A repentant Whyman said yesterday: "I'm a two-tier person. I'm nice and quiet out of the water but in I am a hot-headed guy. If I wasn't that sort of person I wouldn't have steered the way I did in the Boat Race. I accept that my language was out of order. I fully regret what I said but I didn't think too much about it until the storm erupted."

"It was my first bumps and I was excited. We were on our way back when the Emmanuel crew kept stopping and starting in front of me, which was causing us problems because we were practising some technical work."

"It was dangerous behaviour and I told them in no uncertain terms to get out of the way or they could get hit by a blade. Language like that is sometimes used. I didn't mean I would actually do it."



Whyman after victory in this year's Boat Race

Despite an immediate apology for the incident on Friday, a notice was posted that Whyman had been suspended from the Saturday finals.

George Gilbert, secretary of the university's combined boat clubs, said the £50 fine "was due to the rude and abusive behaviour of Kevin Whyman to another crew ... university rowers are expected to set a standard".

Whyman's ban was lifted after an appeal to David Cassidy, the Cambridge Boat Race president, who argued on his behalf. "The way he was treated was without precedent," he said. "Possibly someone was trying to make an example of him."

Whyman competed on the final day of the May Bumps — eventually won by Downing — but still faces a disciplinary hearing.

**CHASSEUR & WIRELESS**

# Blair faces decision of the millennium

**Labour Party split over whether ministers should risk approving £580 million scheme for Greenwich exhibition centre**

By Jill SHERMAN  
Daniel McGROarty  
and Dominic KENNEDY

THE Labour Party was split yesterday over whether ministers should give approval tomorrow for the proposed £580 million Millennium Exhibition in Greenwich.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is said to be against the scheme because of the uncertainty over costs. Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, is understood to be appalled at the paucity of ideas on his desk for what to put in the exhibition.

The decision will be taken by a small group of Cabinet ministers including Tony Blair, John Prescott, Mr Smith and Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Mr Blair's main concern is whether the project will work and be financially viable. Many on his own back benches regard the idea of a London exhibition centre that resembles an upturned umbrella as a waste of money. Ten Labour MPs will today put down an early day motion suggesting that the exhibition money would be better spent on education, transport and the health service.

A senior source close to the Prime Minister said yesterday that there were two questions that the Government had to answer. "The first is whether Britain, in principle, should have an event which stamps Britain on the world map at a time when few other countries are doing anything like this," he said. "But the more important overriding question is whether it is going to work."

So far £120 million has been spent on site clearance and £24 million on design and development. Construction contracts have been agreed and, if Mr Blair gives approval, building work will begin early next week.

The cost of the scheme has already been cut from an estimated £700 million to £580 million. After £215 million for building and infrastructure, £220 million is allocated for

David Quaraby, chairman of the British Tourist Authority, has pleaded with the Government not to scrap the Millennium exhibition. In a letter to Chris Smith, the National Heritage Secretary, he says that in 2000 the dome could generate up to £500 million in revenue from overseas visitors. Without it, he says, tourism chiefs will be hampered in their efforts to attract people to Britain in the face of international competition.

the exhibition content and £145 million on the operating costs. The funding should comprise £200 million from the Millennium Commission's National Lottery money, £195 million from private sponsors and the same amount from gate receipts. Between 10 and 12 million visitors are forecast.

If the scheme goes ahead, what will not be changed is the centrepiece: the transparent dome designed by Richard Rogers. Lord Rogers, a Labour peer and close friend of Mr Blair, is known to have lobbied him and Peter Mandelson, the Minister without Portfolio, over dinner recently. Yesterday Lord Rogers said that he was confident that the exhibition would get the Government's blessing.

The problem for Mr Blair in juggling the figures is that no one is sure what is going to fill the plastic dome, which will be big enough to contain 13

The man originally charged with the job was Gary Withers, 46, creative director of Imagination, the London design company behind much of the VE celebrations. His original plan for a "Circle of Time" — 12 pavilions arranged like a clock face — was dropped in favour of enclosing all the exhibition under one roof. Imagination completed its revised proposals last March but was not consulted by Mr Smith during his recent re-

view on the prospects for the millennium dome. His company is still in daily contact with Millennium Central, the organisation that will run the exhibition, but has yet to be appointed to any official role.

Lord Withers says that he never wanted to be the sole designer for the exhibition and suggests that Millennium Central should canvass as many ideas as it can.

This month the designer Stephen Bayley, founding director of the Design Museum in London, was chosen to help to rescue the scheme. He was appointed creative director of Millennium Central.

The organisation insists that there is plenty of time to make the centre fit work and says it will recruit sportmen, scientists, educationalists and musicians to act as advisers. A spokesman said: "The important thing is that politicians have to stop trying to decide what they want to spend and what they want this creation to be. We will only get one chance."

Yesterday Nick Raynsford, Minister for London and MP

for Greenwich, said it would be a "tragic loss of nerve" if the project did not go ahead.

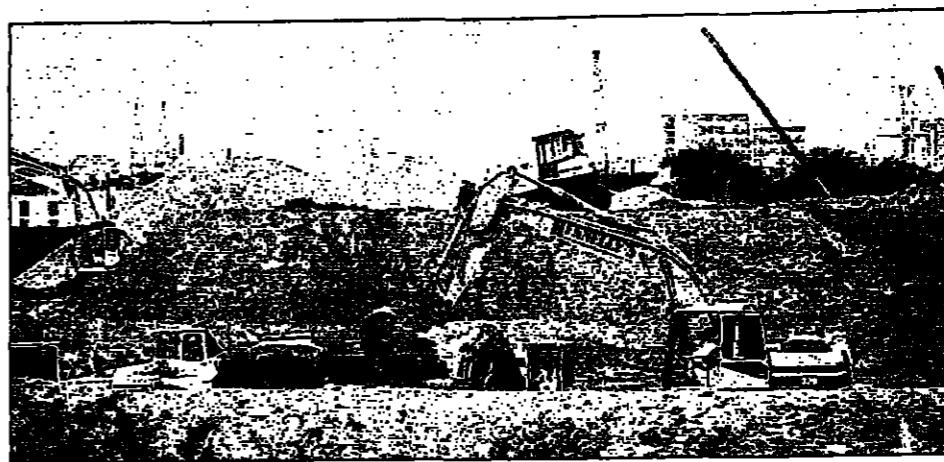
Mr Mandelson, one of Mr Blair's closest colleagues, is said to be reluctant to give up the scheme, which could give the party considerable momentum in the mid-term blues of a first Parliament.

A Downing Street source said that the decision would be taken by the Prime Minister, who had yet to make up his mind. "The decision is in the balance," he said.

Nigella Lawson, page 17  
Letters, page 19



An impression of the exhibition centre that has been likened to an upturned umbrella and, below, the building site at Greenwich.



## Leicester lands space centre cash

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A NATIONAL centre celebrating the achievements of space exploration is to be built in Leicester with money from the Millennium Commission.

The consortium behind the bid, which includes the university and the city council, has won a grant of £23 million and must now find matching funds before the building can go ahead. Two thirds of the money has already been promised, the consortium says.

The National Space Science Centre, to include displays, original materials and hands-on activities, will occupy the site of a decaying and obsolete sewerage treatment works in the city centre. The aim is to give space enthusiasts the best access to current research enabling them to follow current space missions. There will be a planetarium and a Challenger Learning Centre, an educational scheme developed by the

partners. Work to prepare the site is expected to start soon.

John Eggleston, chairman of the steering committee and a senior partner at the accountants KPMG, said: "It's a great honour for Leicester to be behind the National Space Science Centre for Britain." Efforts to attract the matching funds were already well advanced. "In addition to pledges of financial support there are pledges of major space artefacts including objects from the European Space Agency and Nasa moon rock."

Heather Couper, a millennium commissioner and astronomer, said: "The National Space Science Centre reinforces Britain's position at the forefront of space science research. I am also very excited that it will open up this fascinating subject to over a quarter of a million visitors every year."

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## Family's bonds waver on Wall St

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

**WALL** Street, arguably the most unsentimental place on earth, is gripped by a family saga of soap-opera proportions. Why, everyone is asking, did Jessica Bibilowicz leave her father's broking house to work for someone else?

Such interest is explained by the fact that the father is Sanford Weill, a Wall Street titan; the broking house is Smith Barney Inc, one of America's largest; and 37-year-old Ms Bibilowicz, apart from being fiercely intelligent, is an attractive blonde.

Ms Bibilowicz who ran the mutual funds department for Smith Barney, was widely believed to be on an express train to the chief executive's post. Being the boss's daughter helped, of course, but so did the fact that she was good at her job.

But why did Ms Bibilowicz move to John Levin & Co, a comparative Wall Street midget? It has been suggested that she fell out with James Dimon, the firm's chairman. Mr Dimon, 41, is just as clever and ambitious as Ms Bibilowicz. He is her father's protege, and Mr Weill relies on him to such an extent that many regard him as the tycoon's adopted son. When Mr Weill went through a rocky patch some years ago, it was Mr Dimon who rescued him, suggesting a variety of astute deals that put the former back in business.

In a nutshell: daddy was not going to let filial sentiment cloud his judgment. A daughter is, naturally, a daughter, but when it comes to a valuable chap like Mr Dimon, business comes first.

Ms Bibilowicz has denied that she left the firm because she could not overtake her rival. She has, in fact, denied that Mr Dimon is a rival at all. She said: "I'm not leaving Smith Barney because of the size of my job or anything else. I am leaving Smith Barney because I think this is a good opportunity for me."

Mr Dimon said: "Jessica was a friend before she got here. She was a friend while she was here. And she's a friend now."

Observers believe, however, that there were profound disputes between the two, particularly over corporate tactics. Some, however, see things in more straightforward terms. Burton Greenwald, a mutual fund consultant who has worked often with Ms Bibilowicz, said: "She has a terrible cross to bear as the boss's daughter. She will never be judged by her merits as long as she's in Smith Barney."

Market report, page 28

## Gore sued in row over report on TWA crash

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A WOMAN who lost her husband in the Lockerbie disaster and was appointed to a White House airline safety commission is suing Vice-President Al Gore over the report into last year's TWA Flight 800 crash.

Victoria Cummock has filed a suit in federal court against Mr Gore and the Department of Transportation, alleging that the Vice-President forced her to abandon a call for specific counter-terrorism measures and demands for their implementation. A magazine report claimed yesterday that Mr Gore's decision may have been influenced by large-scale campaign contributions from the Clinton-Gore re-election campaign by many airlines, including TWA.

Mrs Cummock has not endorsed the accepted theory that the Boeing 747 was brought down by mechanical failure and believes a terrorist bomb could have been the cause of the disaster.

She claims that Mr Gore, as chairman of the commission, refused to publish her detailed dissent as part of the group's official recommendations following last July's TWA crash off Long Island in which all 230 passengers and crew were killed.

In her suit, Mrs Cummock claims that the commission and the Department of Transportation intended to file the final report without her complete dissent. She says the body violated the Federal Advisory Committee Act which requires committees to publish full minority dissents.

## Romania dispute is likely to delay French re-entry to Nato

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

THE likelihood of France announcing its reintegration into Nato at next month's Madrid summit is fading as the prospect of a showdown with the United States over Romanian membership increases.

The US declaration last week that it would back the inclusion of only three new members — Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic — in the first round of Nato expansion has infuriated France, which backed Romania, and other Nato members who backed Italy.

The deepest wound — the one which will continue bleeding

the longest — is in France, a senior US administration official said yesterday. He added that although Romania's future entry was virtually certain, it would be "profoundly stupid" to commit the alliance in Madrid to bringing in Romania at some future date because it would create two classes of members, something the alliance has tried to avoid.

A French government official said yesterday that as there had been "no advance" in the US position to accommodate France's views, the chance of reaching agreement before Madrid must diminish.

A member of the Moge people waits to vote in the Western Highlands area of Papua New Guinea. The election started on Sunday, but due to ballot papers not being ready or misprinted, ballot boxes being destroyed

## Islanders go to polls

and polling station violence, voting is expected to last for two weeks. A Papua New Guinea politician kidnapped by separatists on Bougainville Island on June 1 was released yesterday. John Morris, the MP for Bougainville Province, was taken captive while

campaigning for the election. He was released after three days, only to be recaptured by a different rebel faction and taken to the rebel heartland, near the vast Panguna copper mine, root of the conflict. (Reuters)

## Judge rules OJ must do without golf

Los Angeles: Golf is not an essential part of O.J. Simpson's life, a Beverly Hills judge has ruled at a hearing to decide which Simpson assets can be sold off for the benefit of Nicole Brown and Ronald Goldman (Giles Whittell writes).

Simpson, who faces a \$33.5 million (£20 million) bill in damages for the wrongful deaths of his former wife and her friend, plays golf four or five times a week on municipal courses, having been ejected from the exclusive Riviera Country Club. His lawyer argued therefore that his golf equipment was essential to the conduct of his everyday life.

## McVeigh 'motivated by Red scare film'

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

TIMOTHY MCVEIGH, the Oklahoma City bomber, was motivated by the 1984 film *Red Dawn* with an extreme right-wing subplot that should be a sobering lesson to film-makers, a leading Hollywood commentator said.

The film, in which America is invaded by Russian and Cuban troops, is a vivid reminder of the need for Hollywood to consider the moral and political consequences of the material it injects into our global pop culture," wrote Peter Bart, editor of *Variety*.

Mr Bart, a former MGM executive who approved the initial script, said *Red Dawn*, according to Mr Bart,

## WORLD SUMMARY

### Naples in crackdown on Mafia

Rome: Troops were on the streets of Naples yesterday as Antonio Bassolino, the Mayor, cracked down on gangland crime after a series of Mafia murders (Richard Owen writes).

He said that bringing in the army was a "regrettable necessity". Gangland warfare between rival factions of the Camorra, the Naples-based Mafia, has left 76 people dead since the beginning of the year.

### 28 wounded in Hebron

Hebron: Israeli troops shot and wounded 28 Palestinians in a fourth day of clashes with Arabs who hurled stones and petrol bombs in the West Bank town of Hebron, witnesses said. Officials at al-Ahli hospital said a Palestinian boy, 12, was in a critical condition after a rubber-coated metal bullet penetrated his head. (Reuters)

### Atom plant cancer check

Paris: A fresh inquiry has been ordered into the incidence of cancer around a nuclear reprocessing plant at La Hague in northwest France after an official study showed a "concentration" of cases near the site. The study indicated that children may have developed cancer after playing on a beach. (AFP)

### Mexico bars way to priest

Mexico City: The Mexican Government has barred Henry McCollum, a Scottish priest, from re-entering the country. He is at least the twelfth Roman Catholic priest to have been expelled from Chiapas, where rebels staged a brief uprising during 1994. (AP)

### Sri Lankan suicide toll

Colombo: More people have died by suicide than have been killed in Sri Lanka's civil war, according to a government report. About 70,000 people have killed themselves since 1983, when the rebellion by Tamils began. The war has claimed 50,000 lives. (AP)

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## Blair to curb costs of hosting summits

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER IN AMSTERDAM

TONY BLAIR is to call a halt to a "freebie culture" that benefits thousands of journalists covering European Union summits. The financial rigour of the Labour Government is about to stop the "gravy train" for reporters who flock to European capitals for the six-monthly European Council gatherings and subsidiary meetings of finance and other ministers.

Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, have been horrified at the cost of staging summits and, particularly, the lavish gifts, free food and soft drinks showered on the press. With Britain set to stage several big summits next year, including two Group of Eight gatherings which will be attended by journalists from all over the world, and the European Council summit in Cardiff next June, they are trying to control the cost.

The Cardiff gathering is already being dubbed the "austerity summit" by European journalists. Mr Brown has been told that the basic press facilities for an informal meeting of finance ministers in York early next year will cost £350,000. The overall cost of staging Amsterdam is reported to be £5 million. The 3,200 journalists covering the

EU summit were invited to go to a warehouse in the summit complex and pick up their "presents for the press", which included a suitcase and trolley, a bottle of jenever — the local speciality, three small metal drinking cups, shoe-cleaning kit, three pens and a CD-Rom exuding the attractions of the Dutch capital.

Food and soft drink and — unusually — telephone charges are free. Alcohol has to be paid for. The cost falls on the Dutch taxpayer.

Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, is a prime mover in the campaign to end the freebies, although there appears to be resistance in the Foreign Office to the idea of cutting off free food and soft drinks for journalists who are effectively captives in the summit complex while it is proceeding.

He said yesterday that he would probably be seen as a killjoy, but "why should the press get all these freebies when people are short of food in many European capitals".

Mr Campbell, former political editor of the *Daily Mirror*, said that when he attended summits he refused to accept the gifts. He is backed by Mr Brown.

His press secretary, Charlie Whelan, said: "We are determined

to keep costs down. We owe it to the British taxpayer not to waste their money." Handing presents to the press and diplomats is not a practice confined to Europe. Reporters travelling to summits of the Group of Seven industrialised countries usually get their press bags packed full of goodies, including tape recorders. Next year there will be a special jobs summit of the G7 and Russia in London and the annual gathering at Birmingham in June. With Britain holding the EU presidency for the first six months of 1998, there will be a host of Union meetings.

EU veterans say that the most lavish gifts have often been doled out by the least wealthy governments. Hardened EU journalists are cynical about any British crackdown. They were decidedly underwhelmed at the hospitality provided under the last British presidency. At the last London EU summit, journalists received polyester neckties and were served sparse rations on paper plates. "It cannot get much worse," said one. The austerity may only last for six months. Other countries need not follow Mr Blair's example.

Leading article, page 19



A selection of the "freebies" that 3,200 journalists covering the European Union summit in Amsterdam were given by their Dutch hosts. They included a suitcase and trolley, a bottle of the local speciality, metal drinking cups and shoe-cleaning kit

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HYPO-ALLERGENIC WITHOUT PEGS

## Brollies and gold watches sweeten task of the press

BY PETER FOSTER

IN THE course of their duties the average European editor will pick up an array of souvenir ashtrays, china dishes, cheap watches, beach towels, mugs, paperweights, coffee-table books, tourist guides, carry-cases, document holders, compact discs, cassette tapes and most other forms of brie-bris you care to mention.

These gifts are modest by the standards of some states. One political reporter recalled yesterday how journalists traveling with the former Prime Minister, John Major, were all given gold watches after a three-hour stop in a Gulf state. Conscientious members of the press who declared their gifts on their return to England were asked to pay up to £1,000 in duty.

Mr Blair's plans for an economy drive will be no surprise to foreign journalists who rated the British summit in Edinburgh in 1992 as the worst yet. Many of the main events took place in an athletics stadium with the BBC setting up their studio in the men's showers which burst into life during one broadcast. "We spent the rest of the summit looking nervously at the ceiling," recalled one present.

Yesterday, as journalists returned home from Amsterdam, it was not difficult to see who had been at the European party, as lines of weary reporters dragged the same complimentary suitcases through the airport.

In Dublin last winter corre-

## No cheese-paring in Caerphilly country

BY GLEN OWEN

CARDIFF, scene of next June's European Council summit, gave a sour reception to the clampdown on the "freebie culture". The city's chamber of commerce suggested that local businesses might be called on to keep the gravy train rolling, or, as the chamber's Helen Conway put it, "to make sure that journalists go away with a good impression of Cardiff".

"We are certainly intending to be hospitable... it is the perfect chance to encourage more visitors." She said it was too early to disclose the contents of the "goody bag" for journalists. "There are some fine Cardiff brews and Caerphilly cheese is a local speciality. Not that I am suggesting they are only interested in food and drink."

In York, where a meeting of EU foreign ministers will be held early next year, the view was the city was entitlement enough. "People have been coming here for thousands of years, so they will not have to be persuaded to enjoy them-



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# 'Son of Maastricht' scales down goals for Europe unity



Grand vision finds no place in last-minute haggling over the finer points of the new Union treaty, reports Charles Bremner

AS EUROPE'S leaders laboured last night to overcome the final sticking points in the new Union treaty, it was clear that pragmatism and old-fashioned nationalism had prevailed over grand vision in the effort to revamp the Maastricht treaty.

More than five years since the leap towards political union and two years since talks began on the revamped version, the "Son of Maastricht" has lurched into life as an exercise in cautious compromise, a 150-page reflection of the defensive, inward-looking mood of the Union.

"Modesty was the name of the game," said a minister from federal-minded Belgium, who contrasted yesterday's haggling over textual minutiae with the bolder statesmanship of Europe's past. For many officials, the overriding priority was to avoid shaking monetary union. The project at the heart of the push for political union survived a Franco-German dispute this week, but faces a shaky countdown to its launch in 1999. "No one wanted a crisis. EMU is the big game in town," a British official said.

Jacques Santer, the President of the Commission, voiced his own complaint about the Treaty of Amsterdam. "I would have liked it to have been more adventurous in one or two areas," the former Luxembourg Prime Minister said. A Dutch diplomat said that "Delors was the embodiment of Maastricht. Santer is the walking Treaty of

## Protesters arrested

Amsterdam: Dutch police arrested about 120 protesters who were shouting outside hotels where European leaders were staying. A police spokesman said they would be released from custody after paying fines. But he said another 340 people arrested following demonstrations on Sunday night remained in custody awaiting charges. (Reuters)

pect of the treaty negotiations better than last night's squabbling over the "institutions". This is the streamlining needed to ensure that the arrival of new members does not jam the workings of the Commission and the EU's decision-making machinery.

Only one of the dozens of new treaty sections contains part of the way to fulfilling its main mission of adapting the Union for the entry of up to a dozen new members from the old Communist bloc of Central and Eastern Europe early in the next century. Nothing demonstrated the narrow as-

The Government, worried that this could be used to create a "hard core" to the detriment of the others, was fighting last night to ensure that the device was always subject to a veto.

British officials last night played down the significance of the flexibility clause, saying "the political steam has gone out of it" for the rest of Europe since the defeat of the Conservative Government. The flexible approach had been devised largely as a way of getting around Tory resistance to change in the EU, an official said.

However, with something

Treaty of Amsterdam, EU leaders were preparing to declare victory once the bargaining was over.

Tony Blair, who espoused most of the EU positions of John Major but with friendly rhetoric, was happy that he had achieved his aims of retaining sovereignty over British borders, keeping the EU out of European defence and putting job creation high in EU priorities. "We have achieved what the Conservatives never managed by sitting and carping on the sidelines."

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said: However, some doubts hang over a separate deal to solve Britain's "quota-hopping" problem with foreign fishermen. Spain, whose vessels are most active with British licences, was objecting to an accord worked out by London and the Commission. Britain was also pleased that it had succeeded in introducing an Article on animal welfare into the Union's constitution, albeit with a Spanish-inspired clause making exceptions for

cultural traditions". Though heavy with language promising citizens such things as "fundamental rights of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights", the Amsterdam treaty carries only a couple of big ideas in response to the complaint that the EU has lost touch with its citizens. This is the proclamation of a "zone of freedom, security and justice" that lifts frontier controls, except those on the borders with Britain and Ireland, and centralises administration, again with limits.

Germany, one of the most federal-minded states, demonstrated its sense of insecurity by blocking the majority desire to fix decisions on asylum and visas by majority rather than unanimous voting. Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor and still the dominant force in the EU summary, said that it was a "national duty and a piece of self-preservation" to ensure that Germany had a veto on such decisions.

Another gesture to the dominant fear of European citizens

is the new employment chapter, proposed by the Swedes last year and heavily pushed by France's new Socialist Government. Germany failed yesterday in an attempt to place severe restrictions on the use of EU funds for job creation. Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister, was busy taking credit for the chapter, which is twinned with proclamations on employment policy extracted from Germany to accompany the "stability pact" on monetary union.

Simon Jenkins, page 18



President Chirac, left, with Helmut Kohl in Amsterdam. They managed to resolve most of their differences over monetary union

## Jesuit assures diehard atheists they will get chance to enter pearly gates

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME

ATHEISTS who secretly worry there might be an afterlife after all were yesterday offered comfort by a leading Jesuit theologian, who declared that non-believers would also enter Paradise after death, "provided they live and die with a clear conscience".

Father Giovanni Marchesi, resident theologian on the Jesuit magazine *Civiltà Cattolica* (Catholic Civilisation) said members of

the other great world religions, such as Buddhists, Muslims and Jews, could also hope for "eternal salvation". He said St Augustine had been wrong to say that non-believers would burn in Hell for eternity. Instead Father Marchesi said he based his theories on the gospels, and on the writings of the third century Christian writer, Origen, who held that, although souls became either "demons or angels" after death, at the Last Judgement "even the Devil himself will be saved".

Father Marchesi said his text had been cleared by the Vatican before publication. "I prefer to describe atheists as those who

believe that they do not believe," he said. "Both they and those who adhere to non-Christian religions may still hope for salvation, as long as they have earned it by the way they lived their lives."

Father Marchesi said Christ had died on the cross "to save all of suffering humanity". He did not want to cause offence to non-Christians, but Christians "must always hope that others will move towards the light".

Father Marchesi said that, although St John wrote that "the

unbeliever has already been judged because he did not put his trust in God's only Son", he also wrote that "it was not to judge the world that God sent his Son into the world but that through him the world might be saved".

Father Marchesi has also drawn on Edith Stein, the Carmelite nun of Jewish origin who died at Auschwitz and was recently beatified by the Pope, who wrote that "faith in the limitlessness of divine love and grace justifies the hope of universal redemption".

But Alessandro Maggiolini, the Bishop of Como and a member of the Vatican commission formulating a new Catechism for the millennium, said that atheists did not have privileged access to Paradise. Asked if he thought tyrants such as Nero and Stalin had been guaranteed salvation, the bishop replied that "the mysteries of the human conscience and divine design" could not be easily penetrated.

Margherita Hack, the leading Italian astronomer, said the new

ruling marked a significant overture to atheists by the Vatican. But she said that, since she did not personally believe in the world beyond, the latest theory was irrelevant to her.

"What matters is what we do in this world," Professor Hack said. *La Repubblica* published a cartoon showing St Peter welcoming an atheist at the pearly gates with the words 'Do come in, you too can enter Paradise'. "Thanks all the same, but for me it does not exist," the atheist replies, turning away.

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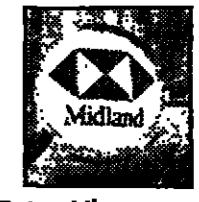
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# Israeli Labour leader plans Blairite revamp

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ENVY of Tony Blair has spread to Israel, where the main opposition Labour Party announced plans yesterday to send a team of experts to Britain to learn his methods in its efforts to defeat the right-wing Government of Binyamin Netanyahu.

Although many of the superficial parallels work out differently in practice, Israel's newly elected Labour leader, Ehud Barak, at 55 some 22 years younger than his uncharismatic predecessor, Shimon Peres, believes that the Blair model is the key to his success. He is even prepared to go so far as to introduce a similar party name change.

Labour was unexpectedly trounced by Mr Netanyahu's right-wing coalition in 1992, an election largely fought on security issues. But many commentators felt that Labour was also dragged down by its links to the Histadrut Trades Union Federation and its inability to appeal to the mass of Jewish voters.

Mr Barak, who has vowed

since his election on June 2 to try to defeat Mr Netanyahu, who has a 66-54 majority, before the next poll in 2000, told members of Labour's central committee: "Our experts are going to find out what it was that Blair did to rehabilitate the British Labour Party and bring it back to power. I would like to make use of his experience and employ his methods here."

A former army chief of staff whose political ambitions

have earned him the nickname "Napoleon", Mr Barak was seen by party members voting in the June 2 primary as the only one of the four candidates with a chance of beating Mr Netanyahu.

Mr Barak told the committee that he has not ruled out the possibility of renaming his party, as Mr Blair did. One suggestion was to rename it the Israeli Centre Party, but Mr Barak said he was considering changing the name to

CARTOONISTS AND WRITERS SYNDICATE



Oleg's view in *The Jerusalem Post* of Labour's task

the New Labour Party. "This may have a psychological significance, though I am aware that a name is not everything and that the really important thing is the substance of the message. But even names and appearance have their importance," said Mr Barak, who has been out of uniform for only two years and is sorely lacking an organiser of the calibre of Peter Mandelson.

His plans for a British-style image transformation won backing from his main rival in the leadership election, Yossi Beilin, who said: "A new name would embody the fact that we are dealing with an old established party which seeks to renew itself and make itself relevant once more."

But as with Old Labour diehards in Britain, there are those in the Israeli party still contemptuous of such manoeuvring. Nissim Zvili, who resigned on Sunday as Labour Party Secretary-General, said: "It is the same party and it smells the same no matter what you call it."



A Black Watch soldier rehearses a Highland dance for a Hong Kong farewell concert

## Guerrilla radio calls Pol Pot a traitor

FROM JAMES PRINGLE  
IN PHNOM PENH

POL POT, the Khmer Rouge leader, has been denounced as a traitor by Khmer Rouge radio, the station that was his mouthpiece for decades.

The denunciation was made as the 69-year-old leader, under whose rule at least a million Cambodians were killed, reportedly fled through thick forests towards the Thai border, allegedly with a small group of hostages and loyal fighters.

The last person to be called a traitor by Khmer Rouge radio was Son Sen, the former Khmer Rouge defence chief, who with his wife, family and bodyguards was murdered last week, apparently on Pol Pot's orders.

The problem of the treason of Pol Pot has been settled on June 14 and the people are rejoicing," the broadcast said.

Though few here would speculate what the broadcast meant by the problem having "been settled", a senior government official said yesterday that the situation around Khmer Rouge headquarters at Anlong Veng in northern Cambodia was "chaotic", and that the guerrillas, after failing to agree on future strategy, had broken into three feuding factions.

There is fighting at two places south of Anlong Veng, and near the Thai border. Khmer Rouge skirmished with government troops," said the official, who has access to military reports. "The situation is extremely confused, and our army is trying to stay quiet as the Khmer Rouge fight it out among themselves."

The two alleged Khmer Rouge hostages are Noun Chea, the so-called "Brother Number Two", and Khieu Samphan, a supposedly moderate member of the guerrilla leadership who has said he wants to enter the Cambodian political mainstream.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the First Co-Prime Minister, says Pol Pot is in poor health, is being carried on a hammock and is on the verge of being captured by the breakaway factions now controlling Anlong Veng, a series of small villages.

None of the Democrats will

be members of the legislature by then because at the stroke of midnight their places will have been taken by the Chinese-appointed Provisional Legislative Council.

The Democrats intend to force their way in just before the swearing-in, at the new Convention Centre, of the Chinese body. Mr Lee's supporters are to gather outside the assembly from 10pm to protest at what they claim is an illegal usurpation of the legally constituted legislature.

Prince Ranariddh's royalist

Funcinpec party wants a deal with the remnants of the Khmer Rouge to bring Khieu Samphan into political life as a bulwark against the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) leader, Hun Sen, who is Second Co-Prime Minister.

The CPP looks in a good position to defeat Funcinpec in elections due to be held next year. Most of its leaders are former Khmer Rouge who have split with Pol Pot. They want to see Khmer Rouge leaders put on trial.

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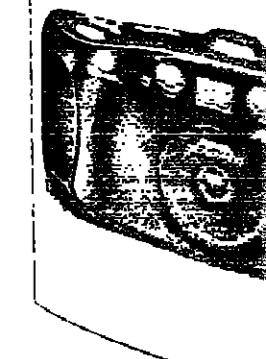
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# Going flat out for a stylish summer

Style Editor Grace Bradberry chooses four of the best flat-fronted trousers



ABOVE: Brown and red multi-layered top, £420 by Gavin Klein at Harvey Nichols. Brown trousers, £360 by Gucci, 33 Old Bond Street, W1.

LEFT: Cream beaded camisole, £29 by Nicole Farhi at Harrods. Jersey trousers, £990 (as part of a suit) by Dolce & Gabbana, 175 Sloane Street, SW1.

FAR RIGHT: Nude jersey top, £259 and beige check trousers, £275 both by Cerruti 1881, 106 New Bond Street, W1.

RIGHT: Floral chiffon top, £254 by Clements Ribeiro at Tokio, 309 Brompton Road, SW3. Blue trousers, £110 by Miuccia Prada at Harvey Nichols.

Photographer: FRANCK SALVIA Stylist: Joann Campbell Hair: Martyn Gayle for Martyn Gayle Hairdressing, 0171 792 5656. Make-up: Stephanie Jenkins Model: Shanna at Boss

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## Invasion of the celebrities

You can't walk around Notting Hill without seeing a famous face and the locals don't like it, says Janine di Giovanni

**I**t was the jawbone that did it. There was something distinctive about the tall, scrawny blonde in the Ray-Bans sitting sullenly next to me. She wasn't that pretty, or even that original. She looked like an Identikit of every other girl in Notting Hill — flared denims, leather cuat, short, jagged hair. But there was something vaguely familiar about her. It wasn't until she opened her mouth to order a cappuccino and out came a whiny California drawl that I clocked her.

"Oh Christ," I said, nudging my friend Allegra. "It's bloody Gwyneth Paltrow." We were sitting in our local coffee bar on Westbourne Grove, 206, on a hot Saturday in June and there she was — another celebrity invading our turf.

Two days later, I went to my gym and was stuffing my grimy possessions into a locker when in walks ... Kate Moss. Not only was it Kate Moss, but it was Kate Moss wearing Manolo Blahnik stilettos, a floaty purple dress, full stage make-up, antique jewellery and a sun-kissed glow. To the gym, Kate, like Gwyneth, was petulant. When

her companion pointed out a blowdryer latched to the wall and suggested Kate use it, the supermodel pouted and whined in a baby voice: "But I don't know how to do my own hair." On Saturday I sat next to Jade Jagger and her boyfriend, Euan, having brunch in Tom's (Tom Conran's *traiteur*, which I regard with the possessive instinct of a mother), I saw a famous American television journalist who everyone calls the Six Million Dollar Woman because she gets paid so much. It confirmed my worst suspicions.

What, on what, has happened to Notting Hill? I admit it has always been trendy: always been, to a certain extent, the cutting edge, but now it is simply out of hand. I got used to seeing Antonio Fraser or Mariella Frostrup or Bjork in the gym, but that was fine because they were low-key locals. They wait in queues patiently like the rest of us. *They don't want people to know who they are.*

But now, a new assault. An even trendier, even more ad-

vanced form of celebrity has attacked my streets. I cannot go to my newsagent without bumping into Ralph Fiennes buying *Hello! Damon from Blur* is always in Wild Oats, the health food shop. And today, drinking coffee in Tom's (Tom Conran's *traiteur*), which I regard with the possessive instinct of a mother), I saw a famous American television journalist who everyone calls the Six Million Dollar Woman because she gets paid so much. It confirmed my worst suspicions.

**M**y once cosy neighbourhood is rapidly changing. Hugh Grant's film, *Notting Hill*, is being filmed here. It is the "prequel" of *Four Weddings and A Funeral*, which means I will have to share my table at Tom's with Duckface and Liz Hurley. The film version of Bridget Jones's diary is being written so that Bridget and her friend Shaz will also be Notting Hill residents. Paul Smith has just bought the old Notting Hill landmark L'Artiste Asotie to turn into a gigantic trendy emporium. Ghost, the overpriced hippy clothes shop, is coming soon.

All this means death to us locals. It means that even more Japanese tourists and Notting Hill wannabees will arrive. Personally, this means big changes. It means I have to brush my hair before I get the papers because I am afraid of whom I will bump into. Why can't these fancy people stay in South Kensington or Mayfair? Because, according to the latest property news, Notting Hill has just surpassed Mayfair in prices. Which means

line where you went to buy dope or vinyl reggae. Today there are rows of trendy restaurants and a design shop with plastic chairs in the window, and the new Alastair Little around the corner.

Is nothing sacred? To avenge my rage at the invasion of my neighbourhood, I phoned my mother. She usually has the ability to soothe me. "I saw Kate Moss naked in my gym the other day," I reported bitchily. "She has terrible bandy legs. And I saw Gwyneth Paltrow drinking coffee in MY coffee bar. She was rude to the waiter." "Kate who?" she asked, puzzled. "And Gwyneth Paltrow? Oh darling, never mind Gwyneth. Was she there with Brad?"

• Jane Shilling is away

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# Hotline to Heaven

**Neale Donald Walsch claims to talk to God. Now His conversations are topping the US bestseller lists. Interview by Susan Ellicott**

In Neale Donald Walsch's rendition, God sounds like a theological version of the Nike slogan: Just Do It. Everything is acceptable in God's sight, he says. There's no such thing as sin. No evil. No right. No wrong. We're all imperfect, yet perfect in our own special way.

He says God advised him to: "Decide who you are — who you want to be — and then do everything in your power to be that." And, more provocatively: "I do not love good more than I love 'bad'. Hitler went to Heaven."

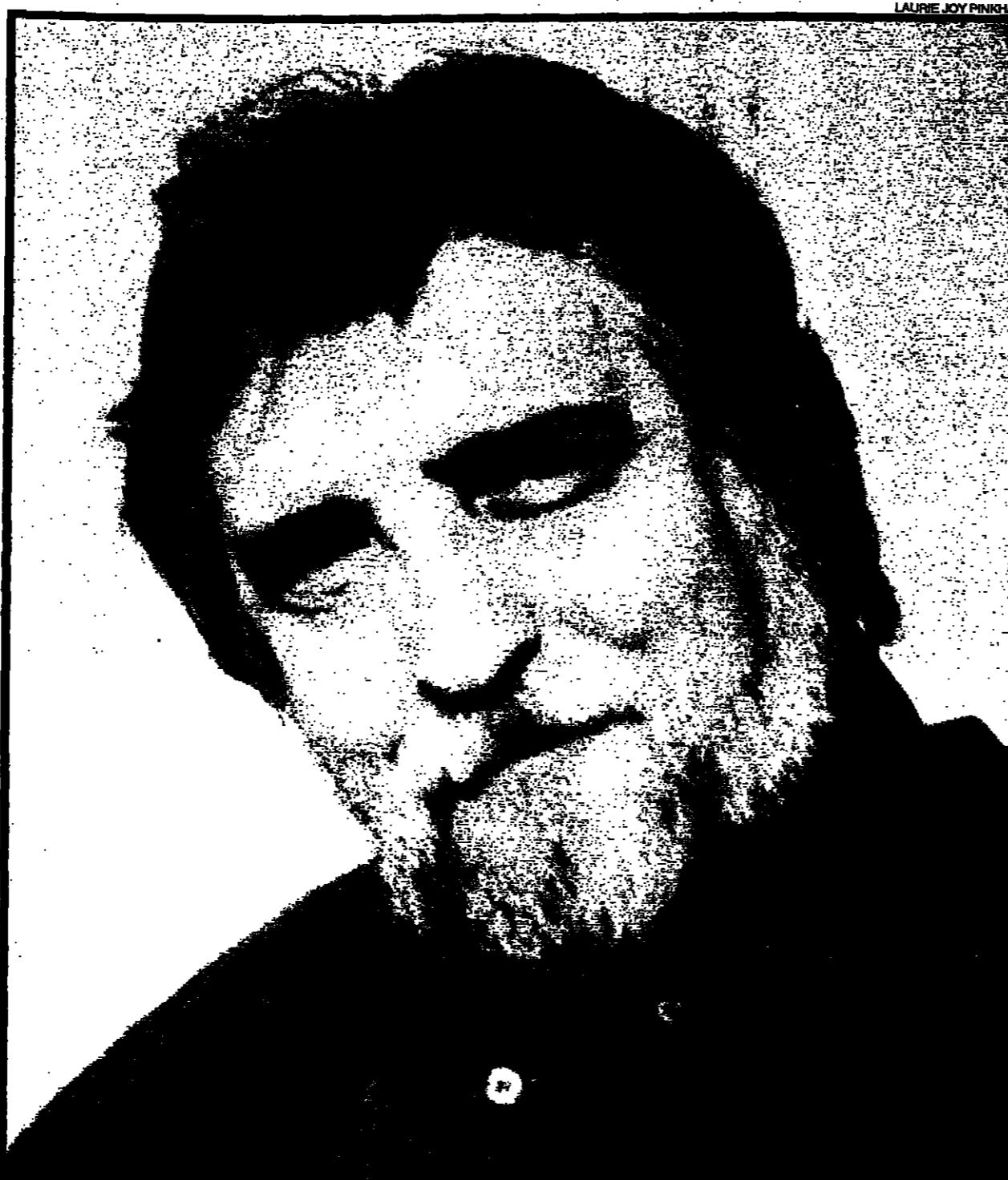
Walsch, a former radio talk show host with five ex-wives, is America's latest divine messenger. Five years ago he was out of work and broke. Today, he's part New Age guru, part publishing phenomenon, the author of two bestselling books that claim to record verbatim his discussions with God on topics as diverse as sex, careers, more sex, happiness, US foreign policy, education, capitalism and the minimum wage. This odd couple even banter about time travel and extraterrestrials. (Walsch reports that God believes in both.)

"I invite you to explore the questions of life," he says. "When literature does that, it serves the world." The second volume of Walsch's *Conversations with God: an uncommon dialogue* landed in US bookshops last month and already is snuggled up against volume one in the Top Ten of *The New York Times'* non-fiction bestsellers' list.

Yet Walsch insists that he didn't really "write" either of them. They "happened" to him. Five years ago, depressed, angry and out of work after being sacked, he began a spiritif letter to God, asking when he would ever be financially stable and lucky in love. The pen began moving on its own, he says, and soon he was taking dictation from God onto a yellow legal pad most nights — usually around about 1am — an experience he likens to "the afterglow following a sexual encounter".

God exhibits a quippy sense of humour. He's sometimes a She. He's sarcastic. He even uses the occasional four-letter word. And so attuned is this Almighty to today's individualistic culture that He/She urges Walsch and his readers to practise saying three key phrases ten times a day: I LOVE SEX, I LOVE MONEY and I LOVE ME. (And those are God's capitals, not mine.)

People magazine put *Conversations* 1 on its list of worst books for 1996. But Walsch is unfazed. "These are the home movies of my mind," he says. "The personal sacred process of communicating with myself." Walsch is Religion Lite



The gospel according to Walsch: the former talk show host says there is no such thing as sin or evil, no right or wrong

in a nation awash with Diet Coke and fat-free Häagen-Dazs, the latest in a long tradition of populist spiritual guides. Walsch's God sanctions homosexual and extramarital sex, though he would prefer us to cut out meat and alcohol. (The scribe himself is a vegetarian.)

The *New York Times* magazine dubbed Walsch's writing as "guilt-free reassurance", but in America's post-Oprah, dysfunctional society, his unsaintliness sells big. Extramarital affairs? Yes. A court tangle over support payments to his nine children? Yes. But the fans don't care. He's moved on. He's truly sorry. And they can relate to him.

**C**onversations doesn't touch you here," says Jay Bott, a photographer who has read volume one five times, tapping his head. "It gets you here. In the heart."

But how did Walsch know it was God talking and not his imagination when the pen first moved? He says he didn't, but he sent his manuscript to a handful of small publishers, figuring that if they were interested, it must be true. The rest, as they say, is publishing history. The first print run of

5,000 paperbacks, released by a tiny company in Virginia, Hampton Roads Publishing, sold out from New Age stores in two months. When sales, after re-prints, reached 100,000, the publishing titan Putnam stepped in and, according to the trade press, shelled out a seven-figure fee for hard-cover rights. At this stage, Walsch questions whether it matters if it's really God talking to him or not. He's grateful for People's put-down — "million-dollar publicity" — and discounts disdain from the mainstream media as his final comeuppance after his own 17 years in journalism.

But why would God pick Walsch? The author believes it is because of his very ordinariness. He grew up a Roman Catholic, the son of a Polish father and a German mother, in a grimy area of industrial Milwaukee. He says he loved God "enor-mously" as a child, but was dropped as an altar boy at the age of 12 by a mother superior when he was late for a procession. "I couldn't understand a God who would do that," he says. The aggrieved child grew disenchanted with the formal teachings of the Church. As an adult, he refused to accept that God would punish anyone for eating meat on a Friday or banish unbaptised dead babies to Limbo. At last, he says, he has found God he can love — though his new role sometimes can be quite a burden. "It's rather like the Royal Family," says Walsch. "There are simply things one can't do if one has any sense of responsibility to those who

look up to one." Success has transformed his life, he says, although Nancy, his sixth wife, is his true salvation. Officially, they live in a modest two-bedroom bungalow in Ashland, Oregon, with his golden shepherd, Lady, although book tours and lucrative speaking engagements keep them on the road for about 30 weeks a year.

His worst fear? That he might have become "a quasi rock star for God".

This bear of a man with unruly grey hair and peachy writer's hands quotes from speeches with which he identifies, including Shakespeare's "some have greatness thrust upon them" and Robert Kennedy's "of those to whom much is given, much is asked".

Has he noticed that God's syntax is strikingly similar to his own? "God chooses to turn up in people's lives the way that is most acceptable," he says. "Clearly, if He wants me to notice Him, He's not going to show up as a Hindu."

Those who doubt whether God showed up for Walsch at all include Walsch's home newspaper, *The Oregonian*. Last year it noted that the message of *Conversations* was eerily similar to that of a book called *Hitler Went to Heaven*, written in 1982 by a Neale Marshall Walsch before he changed his name to Bob White, the radio host, and later to Neale Donald Walsch.

When confronted, the best-selling author said he had "forgotten all about" the earlier book.

One thing, however, is certain. Walsch's God has a head

'It has been made clear that there will be a fourth book'

for business. From the start, he dictated plans for a *Conversations* trilogy. Walsch has been struggling with number three for three years. He rubs tears from his eyes. "The first two had an innocent purity," he says. "But lately he's grown 'deeply aware that I'm speaking to the whole world.'

**S**o what's next? "It's been made clear to me that there will be a fourth book called *Friendship with God*." Just as my attention glazes, I realise that he is crying. "I really don't want to be the flavour of the month," he says, choking up. "I want this to have an effect."

● *Conversations with God: an uncommon dialogue* (volume one), Hodder & Stoughton, £7.99

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Paedophile compulsions must be recognised

## Liberal conscience or criminal negligence?

No burglar has ever offered as his defence the belief that his victim really wanted to have the tea service pinched; no bank robber has ever told a court that the cashiers got a thrill from having his sawn-off shotgun poked in their faces. If convicted criminals understand nothing else than they usually understand that they have broken the law.

Not so paedophiles. As *Kilroy* showed yesterday, one trait common to so many paedophiles is the belief that society has got them, and their victims, wrong. Sex between adults and children is, they believe, not only natural but desirable — desired by both adult and child alike. And unlike the rapist who might also claim to be convinced of his victim's collusion, the paedophile doesn't even acknowledge the implicit, if not actual, violence of his act.

The man on *Kilroy* made no bones about not feeling guilty about his behaviour. More he says he can't change and won't change. Why should he, if he hasn't done anything wrong? Now, you could argue that he have to be sick to think like that, and perhaps you do, but where does that get us?

Normally, I would never believe that the confessions of one criminal should be levelled against any others, but statistics as well as anecdotal evidence prove that the thing about the child molester is that he doesn't stop, doesn't see why he should. Graham Seddon, who served six years of a nine-year sentence for raping a ten-year-old girl, was picked up recently near a playground with a colouring-book and crayons.

I'm haunted by that account and more by the fact that if it happened again, the police would not be able to do a thing. Our liberal consciences might tell us that that is right, but our instincts let us know it is criminally negligent. Perhaps this issue does the lynch mob member inside us wrestle with the liberal like no other: but we have a duty to do what is right in deed, not what is right in theory.

This week's *Sunday Telegraph* reports that the Gloucestershire police force has decided not to tell the organisers of a boys' club that they are employing a convicted paedophile because they have reason to believe that, if they do, they will (successfully) be sued by the man in question. Only a few weeks ago, another paedophile was sent back to jail for again molesting children, having been given a job working with them — and a job protecting them, that's the irony.

OK, you could argue, these men served their sentences, and should be able to start with a clean slate. If we knew no better that would be one thing, but we do know better: so never mind how unattractively reactionary it makes us feel to argue against the rights of time-served paedophiles, this is no time for vanity, no time to strike poses.

At present, all arguments are centred on whether people should be given the right to know whether a convicted paedophile is living near them. Although I understand that people want to know and feel they have a right to know, it is difficult to see how such a law could, in the first instance, be passed and in the second, be responsibly used. But I've

yet to hear a convincing argument against passing a law to prevent any child molester or convicted paedophile from working with children ever again.

I know that as a result of this column, I will get letters from self-confessed paedophiles, assuring me that I have got it all wrong, that they are not forcing themselves on children, that the children welcome their advances and the only problem is a blinkered society that cannot accept the sexuality of minors.

Such people feel compelled to act in this way. The desire to work with children, to be near them, is part of this compulsion. They don't deny it: why should we?

PERHAPS Naomi Campbell was feeling a bit jealous of all the attention that Jerry Hall has been getting recently. Her recent escapade — which ties in with a campaign she is about to launch for her own make of jeans — has certainly given her a lot of publicity.

The story has been, for those of you innocent of such ephemera, that she had a furious row with her Spanish fiancé after he was photographed — in gossip columnist — "a mystery woman" and she then was rushed to hospital with a suspected overdose.

She waves the story away with an airy "Do I look like I'm distraught, that I have just tried to commit suicide?". This is a difficult line for a model to take. Models are hired precisely to be a blank and beautiful canvas: most of them (though not Naomi I'm sure) are up all night snorting cocaine and then successfully posing as unblemished English roses the next day.

But the most beguiling part of Naomi's defence is her protestation to GMTV yesterday morning: "I don't speak any Spanish and Joaquin doesn't speak any English so how could we row anyway?" Whatever it says about the current state of their relationship, it does seem a very curious basis for an engagement.

1 DONT think we should be paying too much attention to the growers and hay sellers, who are outstripping themselves in their vilification of the proposed dome in Greenwich. Certainly, it would be foolish of Tony Blair and his Cabinet colleagues to pay any attention to them tomorrow.

The Great Exhibition of 1851 and the Festival of Britain a century later were no less rubbish before the event and were enormously popular afterwards. All you need to do here is plan something monumental and exciting and the British will moan about it. It's our way, that's all.

But a new strand has been woven in: our ever-growing anti-metropolitanism. If the dome had been planned for somewhere people don't want to go, no one would be quick to contest it. But if it's in London it must be bad, must be unfair and must be an insult to all the other cities.

A capital is, by definition, a position only one city can occupy. Regionality is all very well, but London is our capital. It should be treated as one, be celebrated as one: it does, after all, go with the territory.

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## Alan Coren



■ Dear investor,  
have I got tress  
for you ...

Fifty-two years ago, almost to the day, I was chosen to stand beside Winston Churchill on a makeshift podium in the playground of Osidge Primary School, Southgate, and, with him, sing for England. We sang that there would always be one. Winston, I remember, was wearing a navy boiler suit topped by his father's newspaper-stuffed porkpie hat and carrying a cardboard cigar, and I was wearing the khaki bantam dress of the Infant Cadet Force topped by a black beret with matching boot-polish moustache, as our two unbroken glances trilled a wobbly celebration of VE-Day. Yes — and I have waited half a century for the right moment to make this joke — I was Monty's treble.

The right moment has come because, as you may have spotted in the weekend press, the original of that beret is about to be auctioned, at an estimated knockdown of £7,000. Quite how such estimates are arrived at I cannot imagine; I do not know whether the price is set by historic-hat collectors eager to shelf the beret alongside Florence's bonnet and Isambard's stovepipe, or whether there are Montane freaks jumping up and down out there because they already have his baton or his compass or his dentures. There may even be rich madmen who, unable to get their hands on Napoleon's bicorne, will opt for second-best to enable them to strut around their estates shouting orders at the rhododendrons, but there you have it, or you will for seven grand, a hat that could have been bought in 1940 for two bob has, as the result of being on the right head at the moment the El Alamein night was lit by that photogenic barrage, has turned out to be a major hedge against inflation. A tremendous investment, albeit a bitter pill for anyone in possession of Auchinleck's bits and bobs: had Churchill not asked Monty to step into his shoes in August 1942, you might today be looking at five figures for the left shoe alone. God knows what a matched pair would fetch, but that's market forces for you.

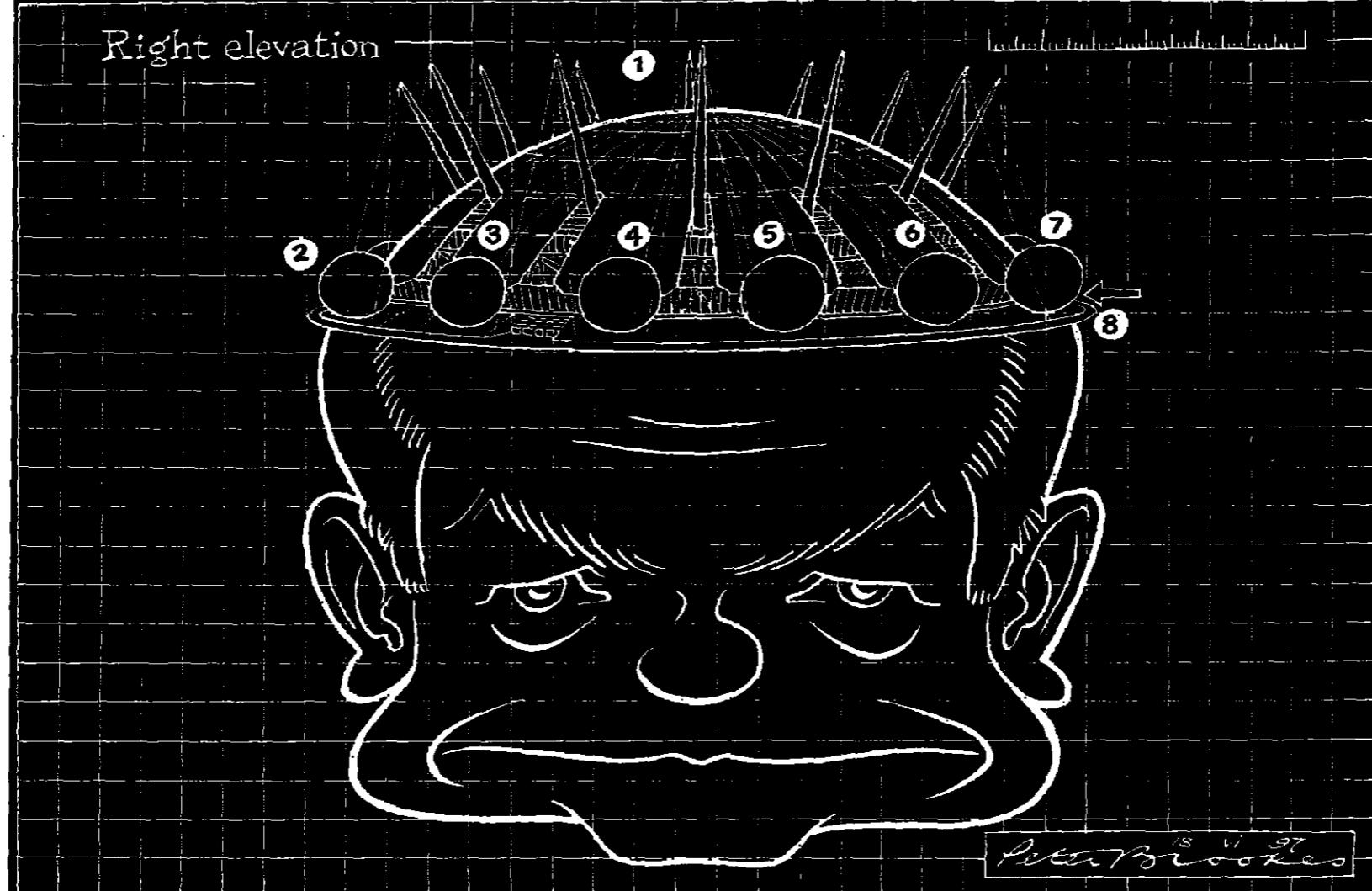
It is also the nub and crux of our business this morning. For the world is full of citizens kicking themselves for not having snapped up relics when the price was rock-bottom, only to see them turning canny paupers into millionaires at the drop of a gavel. The elusive trick is to spot potential fame, to be smart enough to catch the unknown Lennox on a day when he would give you the shirt off his back for the price of a new plectrum, to have the acumen to be passing the right dustbin when the teenage Madonna went up a bra size and threw her first one out. This is a gift bestowed upon only the very few.

And it just so happens that I suddenly find myself in a position to bestow it. While I cannot of course guarantee the infallibility of your investment, I am prepared for a ludicrously small consideration, to let you in on the groundfloor of a possibly major financial coup. To offer you, that is, an unprecedented chance to cash in on what, after the worms sit burping around my supine dust, might just turn out to be a reputation fit to keep encyclopaedia writers in work for years and compel future salerooms to take on whole armfuls of extra stuff.

Why wait for prices to boom beyond reach? Why fiddle around with building society deposits at 5 per cent or take dangerous punts onify shares, when for a mere handful of notes you could own an original Coren tracksuit today, actually worn while this article (or, as it will later be known, British Museum MS 6885-a/c) was being written? Or a rare monogrammed pewter mug which once hung on its very own peg in the Cricklewood Tavern during the height of that creative period when its owner came in on a daily basis to think about writing the major novel which will unquestionably turn out to be tragically missing from its posthumous effects?

And as if all this were not enough, smaller investors among you should note that the author will also be signing his latest vests at John Lewis, Brent Cross, between 10am and 5.30pm, weekdays only. As the first edition is limited to 500 only, don't be late.

And don't worry: it is merely the Office of Fair Trading regulations which require me to remind you that prices can go down as well as up.



MILLENNIUM DOME FIASCO — WILL IT STILL GO AHEAD?

## Champion of the sceptics

In Tony Blair Britain has at last a leader in a position not just to lecture Europe on its wicked ways — but to be heard

In Amsterdam they riot. In France they fight. In Britain they dart from the depths of think-tanks and gobble up Tory parties. At this week's Euro-summit, they "vomit against Europe". Nowhere have they charisma or the big idea. Europe's famed sceptics have lacked a leader since the fall of Margaret Thatcher. They are a Reformation without a Luther.

Now they have one. He is Tony Blair. In a dazzling series of appearances on the European stage, he has conveyed the same message with the same body-language. Europe is rotten. Its leaders are out of date. New Britain knows the true way. This is the message of the Single European Act, of Thatcher's Bruges speech, of British negotiators through the Nineties. What is new is the messenger. Mr Blair has the political authority to bring scepticism to the heart of Europe, to preach it from the pulpit, not heckle from the pews. In Amsterdam this week, he carried the flag with confidence.

The story begins with Mr Blair's first Eurosummit at Noordwijk on May 23. He was asked whether he enjoyed meeting his fellow European leaders. "Yes," he replied, but added gratuitously, "I would not be enthralled to be told it had to go on for another day." More days there have been, and plenty more to come. The message has become more strident with the pettiness of summit discussion, the obsession with procedure, the irrelevance of these interminable feasts days. They are like an Elizabethan royal progress, glorious for the monarch but humiliating for the subjects. Two days in Amsterdam reportedly cost £10 million. Britain's European presidency next year must be a lesson in economy. Mr Blair should meet his guests quietly and feed them in restaurants. Their gilded refuges can look after themselves.

This is just surface tension. The Government has found itself fighting the old fight for British beef and fish and for the opt-out on border control. It has fought against a European army, against the farm policy and against bureaucracy. Baroness Thatcher and John Major regarded all this as incubus. A purring bureaucratic growth that rotted their party. Mr Blair's irritation is based, for the present, on an acceptance that Europe must reform. It is *de jure* and *de facto* part of Britain's commercial life. He offers more than Tory scepticism with added grim.

The new French Prime Minister,

Lionel Jospin, is to Mr Blair akin to Lambeth council on a bad night. M Jospin is from the Dark Ages. He wants Europe's taxpayers to help to finance 700,000 new jobs in his country, half of them in the public sector. He is pledged not to privatise his inefficient airline or his railway. His party is demanding a shorter working week, more pay for state employees and a higher minimum wage. The British Chancellor, Gordon Brown, gave this short shrift. He replied that raising "the job-creating potential of the EU economy" must not mean state corporatism. It meant "a flexible labour force that thrives on competitive, deregulated markets, worker retraining and a reformed welfare state".

By this Monday in Amsterdam Mr Blair was parading as a fully-fledged Iron Man of Europe. France and Germany had agreed a job creation package to gloss over deep differences on the Maastricht criteria. Mr Blair welcomed their wish for higher employment, but he denounced squandering EU cash on "supposed" job-creation schemes and the reviled "state intervention". Jobs were about employability, education, skills and our flexible friend, "labour markets responsive to economic change". For good measure, other states should reform their welfare state and not fudge the single currency criteria. The message is clear. If Europe's leaders expect British taxes and labour restrictions to help feather their political nests and to avoid the structural upheavals of Britain in the Eighties, they can think again. His audience must have sighed for that nice lady with the handbag.

Now is this play-acting by a new Cabinet thrilled by its international sex appeal. It is the authentic voice of Britain-in-Europe, singing from a new songsheet. It is the Britain of free trade, subsidiarity, national autonomy and minimal bureaucracy. Just as political

revolutions are most effective when launched from an unexpected quarter, so Mr Blair's scepticism comes as a greater shock to those who thought Labour would be a soft touch in Europe. Images of Mr Blair sitting on Herr Kohl's knee are long forgotten. Even under Labour, Britain is firmly on Europe's right wing.

We must accept that the diplomatic blitzkrieg may pass. Many former Prime Ministers have sought to bend Europe to the British view. Crushed by the chicanery and irrelevance of Euro-summits, they folded their tents and crept back across the Channel. Bureaucracy continued to bungle. The failure to "reform the CAP" rankled. Why waste time at the heart of Europe they said, if its corrupted bloodstream uses a bypass valve? Better to sit and whinge on the European right wing.

Mr Blair is a Eurosceptic but not (yet) a Eurocynic. He seems to be taking the tide at the flood. He enjoys political supremacy in his own country at a moment of self-doubt elsewhere. Every country includes opposition to the federalist ratchet and to the single currency. The "Anglo-Saxon path" of open trade and flexible labour markets is looking good. Mr Blair is like Tamingo after trial by fire and water. Thanks to the Thatcher revolution, he can blow his magic flute round the platforms of Europe and nobody dares shout him down. The British way is market-tested.

**T**he withdrawal lobby will, of course, have none of this. As the rest of Europe goes to hell in a handcart, it would prefer to see Britain stay well away, watching, picking and mixing. The British economy is in strong heart, despite rather than because of the European link. There is no train leaving any station, no plane about to take off, no fast track, no silly metaphor. There is just the restless churning of the diplomatic elite, making work for themselves. Leave them alone.

Mr Blair disagrees. He argues that the European Union is a close trading partner that may be about to debut itself with a half-baked single currency. Britain's interest lies in averting that disaster. For once the field of Europe might be ready for a British plough. Mr Blair may be unique among Britain's postwar leaders. He may be in a position not just to lecture Europe on its evil ways, but also to be heard. That is scepticism to a purpose.

## The Turner pickles its sacred cows

Time for a new art prize, says Rachel Campbell-Johnston

Prizes are better left to dogs or pots of marmalade than to artists. There are simple criteria for judging the gloss of a coat or the zest of preserved citrus. But can artists really be compared? One person's perception of truth, one individual's cultural interpretation, cannot be ranked above another's. Yet it is exactly this that the Turner Prize pretends to do every year. And every year promoters, patrons and participants alike play along. The pretence is becoming increasingly flimsy.

Twelve months ago the Turner Prize jury was unable to come up with a single female artist deemed worthy of its shortlist. There was a stinging backlash.

This year, apparently, the achievements of women so overshadow those of the men that the latter are excluded. Nor is there a single painter on the shortlist.

This suffocating narrowness defeats the purpose of the prize.

Nicholas Serota, the chairman of the Turner jury and director of the Tate Gallery, which stages a show of the shortlisted work, has suggested that the purpose of the prize is "to bring new developments in the visual arts to the attention of the people who are interested in the culture of our time, but who do not regularly visit commercial galleries in London and the regions, or exhibitions of British art abroad". In short, the Turner Prize is an annual showcase of contemporary British art for the armchair culture-vulture who wants a summary of developments without going to the trouble of trekking from Hackney to Hull. Its aim is to set dinner-tables humming with talk of the arts argument and indignation.

If this year's provocative list attains this end it will be for the wrong reasons. The selection of an all-female shortlist appears to be a taunting move designed to serve the shallower purposes of promotion, rather than art. The Turner Prize thrives because it is about focusing the media spotlight on itself, about transforming what would be just another exhibition into an event. In these terms it has had spectacular success.

But to attain this sort of success the artist must do well neatly with promotional ends. Probably the best known on this year's list is 40-year-old Cornelia Parker. She rose to wide recognition with her 1995 Serpentine installation *The Maybe*, in which an actress lay, a silent breathing effigy, inside a glass case. This probably owed its impact more to Tilda Swinton — she had recently played the title role in the film *Orlando* — than to imaginative profundity. Undoubtedly this laconic "exploration of the enigma of mortality" had a certain memorable beauty. But surely mortality, that most time-honoured of artistic subjects, has been explored at least as creatively, albeit in a more traditional medium, by such painters as Ken Currie or Jenny Saville.

**A**nother of the shortlisted artists, Gillian Wearing, first burst into the public arena as part of Damien Hirst's *Freeze* exhibition in 1988. Her confessional audio-recordings and videos delve into the fears and fantasies, the secrets and the aspirations of ordinary people. *10-16* is a series of filmed vignettes in which adult actors lip-synch to a soundtrack of the voices of children. A schoolgirl brags of her toughness, but, with amusing incongruity, her voice emanates from the lips of an inoffensive middle-aged woman sitting, munching sandwiches. Such entertainment — if predictable — explorations of the adult in the child might be quickly forgotten, were it not for the footage of a naked male dwarf, prostrate in the bath, mouthing the words of a confused boy declaring that he would like to kill his mother because she has become a lesbian.

Novelty and shock, contextualised by arcane explanation, have become the wearily familiar language of the Turner Prize.

This is not to suggest that all its supporters are pseudos, any more than its critics are philistines. Christine Borland's fascination with bones combines a searching interest in science and history with a delicate awareness of corporeal fragility. Her subtle pieces are riddled with unexpectedly playful intimations of mortality. Angela Bullock's inventive installations can be wittily unexpected. If nothing else they trumpet a challenge to dry conservatism.

But these bad girls of British art are in danger of succumbing to such conservatism themselves. Their formulae have been pickled — sacred cows preserved in formaldehyde. To treat the cutting edge has come to seem about as innovative as attending an evening watercolour class. In-your-face attitudes have been staring at us too long to seem brazen.

Real boldness in a Turner shortlist would be to set conceptual art in a wider arena. Instead the jury remains content merely to judge best of breed. It is time for the art world to look towards instituting new prizes, to force the Turner to compete harder for the media attention of which it has grown lazily confident. In the literary world, the Booker Prize has had to struggle for its premiership against such awards as the Whitbread, the W.H. Smith, the Somerset Maugham, and more recently the Orange Prize and the David Cohen British Literature Prize.

It is time a fresh arbiter — someone such as Charles Saatchi whose discerning tastes have helped to shape the contemporary art world — instituted a new award to challenge the Turner's narrow introspection. Art is always subjective. But if it is to be placed in the show ring, it should be judged as objectively as possible.

## Scotched

THE FARCE at the Royal Opera House hit another high note yesterday with the sudden cancellation of next week's *Macbeth*, the first new production of Covent Garden's Verdi Festival and a version which has never before been professionally staged in Britain.

Technical problems have been blamed, although backstage staff say that the fiasco results from the number of redundancies among technicians. "They haven't enough people with the skills to put on the



Shadows over Covent Garden

production," said one. "They were trying to bring in countless drossongs who hadn't a clue what to do."

Yesterday the Opera House said cancellation was likely. "But we are not going to confirm it until tomorrow. With the theatre already beginning to shut down, it puts an intolerable strain on our backstage facilities."

A delegation from Covent Garden was said to be in a crisis meeting at the Arts Council. Chris Martin, the Heritage Secretary, is likely to blow his bonnet when he hears the news, particularly after reports that £2.5 million of lottery money has been used to finance redundancies.

The Opera House had planned to put on *Macbeth* next Friday, followed by Simon Boccanegra, with Plácido Domingo in the starring role.

However, two consecutive new productions appear to have been over-ambitious. The Opera House is still waiting for the arrival of its new chief executive, Mary Allen, in September but Lord Chrichton, the acting chief executive, must have decided to cut Covent Garden's losses. Experts estimate that at least £250,000 will already



have been spent on *Macbeth* which may now be staged in a concert performance.

### Off the road

THE AA might be a guardian angel at the roadside, but its bedside manner is bringing down imprecations from church leaders. The new AA *Essential Phrase Book* in eight languages contains, among other things, practical advice for holidaymakers on "How to catch a girl or trap a man".

Worse still for Roman Catholics, it offers translations for "Do you have a condom?" which, in French, reads: "Tu as un préservatif?"

The organisation will receive what promises to be the first of hundreds of defections today when Father Tom Connolly resigns membership after 30 years.

"I urge Catholics and other upright members to join another organisation," thunders the Catholic Church's spokesman in Scotland.

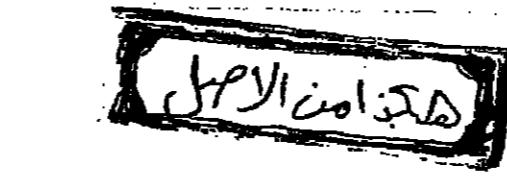
### Leading rolls

THE MAIN Tory leadership campaign chose different ways to prepare for the result of the second ballot yesterday. Ken Clarke was sighted having a leisurely lunch in the Garrick Club. Meanwhile, over at William Hague's HQ in Stafford Place, SW1, bang next door to John Redwood's house, a

van pulled up with a delivery of smoked salmon and cases of champagne. The Hot-heads for Hague were clearly preparing for victory. The delivery man grumbled there was no one to pay him. If things continue to go Clarke's way, there may not be.

### Bally-eyed

THERE is a hunted look about



Blair: sleepless nights

Tony Blair at the moment. He has matters going on his plate, the skin hangs looser on his face, he looks dog-tired. Long negotiations into the Amsterdam night cannot be helping. The trials of the general election must seem like a breeze in retrospect.

John Major, for the time being still the Leader of the Opposition, can sympathise. It did not take long for the rigours of the prime ministership to catch up with him. A few weeks in, he was shattered, not sleeping properly, and with a seemingly unstoppable round of foreign and domestic chores to do.

P-H-S

DNESDAY JUNE 18  
The Turn  
pickles its  
sacred cow  
Time for a new  
prize, says Rad  
Campbell-Johnson

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

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## MARCHING INTO A TRAP

The IRA is setting a snare for Unionists

The Government's severest test so far comes in the first week of next month, not with its Budget, but in how it reacts to a church parade in a village in Northern Ireland. Last year the stand-off at Drumcree, when an Orange march was prevented from passing by a Roman Catholic estate, led first to civil disobedience from loyalists and then, when the march was allowed to proceed, anger and disillusionment among the nationalist population. Now, with two young police constables murdered by the IRA, the loyalist ceasefire fraying and republicans determined to assert their growing strength, the outlook is bleak.

The IRA's murder of Constable John Graham and Constable David Johnston was not an act of unthinking Provo militarism, a reflex Republican swipe. It was a calculated piece of provocation from a political movement determined to make Northern Ireland ungovernable until its demands are met. Republicans hope to provoke the loyalists into a hot-headed retaliation which will inflame nationalist feelings and exploit the greenward tilt of Dublin opinion. The loyalists would be extremely foolish to rise to the IRA's bait. They would forfeit their seat at the talks table, political influence and hard-won sympathy for their community. Those considerations, however, may not weigh with loyalists increasingly frustrated at the impunity with which the IRA acts. They must, if worse is not to follow.

The IRA is determined not to let Drumcree and the other symbolic parades of the marching season pass off peacefully. Republicans must not be allowed another victory for violence. The attachment of Ulster Protestants to their traditional parades may mystify and irritate mainland opinion. They certainly attract some of Unionism's more militant voices. They are, however, one of the last ceremonial expressions of allegiance to the Crown allowed

a community which believes its place in the United Kingdom has been slowly undermined over the past 25 years. The uncertainty Unionists feel about their constitutional position should have been considerably assuaged by the Prime Minister's recent reassurances. Unfortunately, the way in which the majority's wishes have been bypassed, especially since the 1985 Anglo-Irish agreement, has led many to use whatever traditional means are available to proclaim their numbers and their principles.

For many years marches were quietly tolerated by nationalists but, recently, Sinn Féin activists have used them as opportunities for confrontation. The leaders of Orange opinion have tried this month to reach an honourable compromise over Drumcree and the leading nationalist and Unionist dailies in the Province have floated their own attempt at accommodation. Sinn Féin has, however, no motive but mayhem. Its activists will, as they have in the past, marginalise and intimidate voices seeking a settlement. That should not stop Unionists trying. Monday's murders may incline some Unionists to a hardline stance but taking an inflexible approach to marches would mean walking into a republican trap.

If Unionists abandon their attempts to make parades more palatable they will, however unfairly, be seen as provocative. If those attempts fail, and that seems likely, then the Government faces an uncomfortable choice. To ban the Drumcree parade would seem, in Unionist circles, like a surrender to republicans and the loyalist reaction could be fierce. The IRA would only pocket the concession and press for more. To allow the parade to go ahead would, however, provide republicans with a stage for civil disobedience and worse. If the Government is not to see the prospect of peace evaporate it must consider now how to meet the threat of terrorists determined on the most destructive of courses.

## PRINCIPLE AND PIQUE

The Tory winner will hold only half of his domain

Last night's Conservative leadership ballot showed the party as deeply split as it could possibly be. Expectations that William Hague would draw away from the pack ought by the normal rules to have led opportunistic MPs to coalesce around the predicted winner. Instead Mr Hague and Kenneth Clarke go into the final round neck-and-neck, with the votes of John Redwood supporters determining the result.

Although Mr Hague increased his vote by more than the other contenders, it was Mr Clarke who won the battle of expectations. Few thought that he would score as many as 60 votes, let alone that he would narrowly beat his junior rival. Mr Redwood emerged a poor third, picking up the smallest number of votes from Michael Howard and Peter Lilley's supporters, even though he was the only unequivocal candidate of the Right.

Mr Hague's relatively disappointing performance shows the extent of the doubts about his candidacy. Messrs Howard and Lilley threw their weight behind him; fewer than half their supporters followed. Some were unimpressed by his performance on Monday, when he addressed a gathering of MPs. Even if he does win tomorrow, his victory will be a poor, weak thing.

Mr Redwood's supporters, who will now determine the outcome, are faced with an unappealing choice. On one side is the man who they believe lost them the last election, whose stance on Europe is unacceptable and who despises them and their views. Moreover, Mr Clarke is by nature lazy; and the task before the new leader demands not only new thinking, which is anathema to the former Chancellor, but also a relentless and energetic rebuilding of the party and its structures. If there is one thing that Mr Clarke hates more than dining with a group of Eurosceptics, it is eating rubber chicken.

## ON THEIR BIKES

European agreement can come in only by bicycle

Euro summits make heavy politics. The meeting of European leaders that ended yesterday had the classic ingredients of Euro fudge. For everybody could claim to have won the serial caucus race, and so each had a prize. Summits are rounded off by symbolism as well as signatures to protocols. As the Commission President, Jacques Santer, said afterwards, echoing the Dodo to Alice: "There are no losers, only winners."

But the master symbol of this summit was the bicycle. The Mayor of Amsterdam's presentation of bicycles to the Prime Ministers and Presidents was a shrewd gimmick from the most cycle-friendly nation in Europe. With more than one bicycle a head of population and not a hill in sight Amsterdam is a city that runs on pedals even more than Oxford. The bike is ecologically friendly and demotic. Wary of hospital bills and bad publicity, the Mayor warned the statesmen of the hazards of canals. And the Dutch cycle frames were all of one size but strong enough to take the biggest political frames.

So yesterday's bicycle race of leading European statesmen made the parable as well as the photo opportunity of the summit. Tony Blair, who had earlier called for a change in gear to bring Europe closer to its citizens, was the first to cross the finishing line, pumping new Labour, new leg-power. The Dutch Premier, Wim Kok, and the

Austrian Chancellor, Viktor Klima, were with him in the first bunch. Even the portly Belgian Prime Minister, Jean-Luc Dehaene, who is more suitably built for roll-on, roll-off ferries than pedalling, joined in.

But the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, the French President, Jacques Chirac, and the European Commission President, Jacques Santer, politely refused to mount their Dutch gifts, as though they were Trojan horses. They may have been afraid of losing their dignity. Because of years of chauffeur-driven isolation, they may have forgotten one of the first adult skills a child learns. Or they may simply have been disinclined to gratify the photographers, the sardonic spectators and the Mayor.

But they were wrong. For the bicycle is a simple modern symbol with which all can identify. Even the great men of this world should never become too grand to show a golden calf or risk making fools of themselves. In his brief spurt to glory Mr Blair demonstrated that he was prepared to blend the common touch with a signal to his EU colleagues that he meant to lead from the front. And the course for the premier bicyclists was only about 100 yards long anyway. The British should lead in Europe. And the best model for political advance is not the jet with variable geometry or the train or the limousine, but the people's bike.

## 'Shambles' of UK electoral law

From Professor Iain McLean and Professor R. J. Johnston

Sir, Your report on the important items in the Home Office in-tray ("Reformed Straw is on parole", June 12) is notable for what it omits. Jack Straw's responsibilities include the conduct of elections.

His predecessor, Michael Howard, promised the House of Commons (*Hansard*, June 14, 1995, p602) that he

would immediately initiate a wide-ranging review of the rules under which the Boundary Commissions operate when redrawing constituency boundaries, but as far as we have been able to discern nothing has been done. Perhaps it is in neither the in-tray nor the out-tray, but left to moulder in the lwb (let the blighters wait).

More important, the Labour Party's election manifesto included a pledge to hold a referendum on electoral reform within the lifetime of this Parliament. The Foreign Secretary has indicated in an interview in the *New Statesman* (June 13) that this occupies a low place on the Government's agenda, as does electoral reform for the European Parliament.

The UK's electoral law is a shambles, as we made clear in *Fixing the Boundaries*, 1996, edited by I. McLean and D. Butler. Putting it into effect should be a high-priority task for the Home Office once it has tested public opinion on the desirability of electoral reform to a more proportional system.

Yours sincerely,  
IAIN MCLEAN  
(University of Oxford),  
R. J. JOHNSTON  
(University of Bristol),  
Nuffield College, Oxford.  
June 13.

## Press freedom

From Mr Roy D. Roebuck

Sir, The Lord Chancellor's excuse (letter, June 14; see also letter, June 13) for the extraordinary press conference to which only "specialists" were admitted won't wash. The notion that proposed alterations to civil justice and legal aid, which are important to every citizen, should be communicated to the laity through some priesthood is unsatisfactory.

The danger inherent in restricting briefings to such favoured groups of reporters is that of "sweetheartism": the provider of news is never embarrassed by the disclosure of information he wishes to keep secret, since the ethos of the group discourages individual initiative by reporters.

Further, if there are developments in the "confidential" discussions of "key Cabinet committees, concerned with the work of the Government's programme of constitutional reform", it is the job of reporters to discover them and not to wait with hands supine for briefings from the Lord Chancellor. Still further, the proper way for the Government to announce officially any such developments is through a statement in the Commons.

I have the honour to remain,  
Sir, your obedient servant,  
ROY ROEBUCK  
(Labour MP for Harrow East,  
1967-70),  
12 Brook Street, N1.  
June 15.

## Road use

From Mr Robert Blood

Sir, Charging road users for the length of time spent on the road might indeed encourage speeding (letter, June 11), but there is a straightforward solution, which I understand, already ready on some tolled motorways in the United States.

The ticket which a driver collects on entering the motorway is timestamped. If the driver gets to his exit too quickly (calculated by dividing the distance between entry and exit by the time taken to drive it) the authorities simply add a speeding fine to the toll levy.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT BLOOD,  
20 Delorme Street, W6.

## March of progress

From Dr Jonathan P. A. Poweraker

Sir, May I congratulate you for introducing electronic mail to your letters page. This will allow those of us in distant corners of the world, as well as distant corners of the UK, to comment on the news and issues, of the day.

Through reading the Internet version of the paper we may keep abreast of current affairs in the UK and around the world, yet our experiences of different cultures, political systems and socio-economic environments will, I believe, enhance the quality of debate in your letters page.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN POWERAKER,  
Department of Clinical  
Neurosciences,  
Faculty of Medicine,  
Health Sciences Building,  
3330 Hospital Drive NW,  
Calgary, Alberta T2N 4N1.  
[jon@cs.ucalgary.ca](mailto:jon@cs.ucalgary.ca)  
June 16.

Letters for publication may  
be faxed to 0171-782 5046.  
e-mail to: [letters@the-times.co.uk](mailto:letters@the-times.co.uk)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Rejection of plan for Stonehenge

From Lord Montagu of Beaulieu

Sir, As the first chairman of English Heritage I laboured with my fellow commissioners for eight-and-a-half years to solve the Stonehenge problem. I share the disappointments and frustrations of the present commissioners at being thwarted in progressing what their present chairman has called a "near perfect" solution on the grounds of cost (report, June 14).

I can see no alternative but to revert to the plans set out and presented to the former Government in 1985, after six months' deliberations by a committee which included all interested parties.

The recommendations embodied in the main accepted requirements: isolating Stonehenge in its natural environment, closing the A344, building a reception centre and museum at Larkhill invisible from the monument, and best of all creating a three-quarter-of-a-mile walk to the site across the historic landscape.

These proposals were widely welcomed in the consultations we carried out at the time. Hostility to the plan came only from the military and the villagers of Shrewton. I suspect that the end of the Cold War and common sense have meant that these objections have been somewhat modified.

We always appreciated that some extra government money would be required, but I had always felt confident that English Heritage would be able to arrange a suitable financial package of government and private investment. After all, unlike most English Heritage properties, Stonehenge is very profitable, needing very little annual maintenance and guaranteed to attract visitors and earn money.

How paradoxical to spend £800 million at Greenwich for a millennium building only lasting two years, where a much more modest sum would help preserve Stonehenge for public enjoyment and enlightenment for another thousand.

The Government and English Heritage should try to achieve the possible.

### Millennium dome

From the Chairman of the Southwark Environment Trust

Sir, It has been clear for some time that the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition could become a white elephant because nobody has ever made clear what visitors will see when they get there (report, June 16). The Millennium Commission applied the strictest of criteria for all other applications, demanding proposals in the greatest of detail. Apparently not for this one.

The danger inherent in restricting briefings to such favoured groups of reporters is that of "sweetheartism": the provider of news is never embarrassed by the disclosure of information he wishes to keep secret, since the ethos of the group discourages individual initiative by reporters.

Further, if there are developments in the "confidential" discussions of "key Cabinet committees, concerned with the work of the Government's programme of constitutional reform", it is the job of reporters to discover them and not to wait with hands supine for briefings from the Lord Chancellor. Still further, the proper way for the Government to announce officially any such developments is through a statement in the Commons.

I have the honour to remain,  
Sir, your obedient servant,  
ROY ROEBUCK  
(Labour MP for Harrow East,  
1967-70),  
12 Brook Street, N1.  
June 16.

### Rights of disabled

From the Director General of the Leonard Cheshire Foundation

Sir, Alf Morris (article, "All the help Parliament prescribed", May 26; letters, May 29) comprehensively details the ramifications of the Gloucestershire judgment — under which an 81-year-old man was deprived of services for which he had been duly assessed under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 — on the lives of thousands of disabled people. He rightly points out that disabled people now live in an uncertain world where statutory aid is outweighed by budgetary constraints.

As a charity providing support services for nearly 10,000 disabled people, The Leonard Cheshire Foundation is well aware of the shortcomings of the current community-care system. Even before the Gloucestershire ruling many disabled people found it

increasingly difficult to utilise the most appropriate support services. Now these services may be under threat as local authorities struggle to balance their books.

What is needed is a far-reaching review of community-care services for disabled people. Any resulting reform must address the issue of resources while reaffirming the principle of need over budgetary considerations.

The new Labour Government has already made many decisions to fulfil their pledge to govern in the interests of all. Tackling the gross injustice of the Gloucestershire judgment presents an ideal opportunity for them to demonstrate that disabled people have an equal place in Labour's new stakeholder society.

Yours sincerely,  
JAMES STANFORD,  
Director General,

The Leonard Cheshire Foundation,  
26-29 Maunsel Street, SW1.

### Getting better?

From Mrs P. M. Macaulay

Sir, May I assure you that "hotel-charges in hospitals to be introduced in line with low-grade bed-and-breakfast" establishments (report, June 13), the quality of the food for patients would surely improve?

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICIA M. MACAULAY,  
29 South Parade,  
Summertown, Oxford.

June 14.

—

Alcopop ban

From Mrs Jennifer Leyland

Sir, I believe we should all commend the Co-op and Iceland for banning the sale of alcopops in their stores (report, June 14) and putting the health and safety of children before their profit-margins.

Yours faithfully,  
JENNIFER LEYLAND,  
Y Berth, Cllcain,  
Mold, Flintshire.

June 15.

—

Staying at home

From the Chairman of the Association of Catholic Women

Sir, The chairman of the British Housewives' League is right to highlight the importance of mothers who choose to stay at home with their young children (letter, June 12). They perform work of the highest social and cultural value.

There is ample evidence that children, from birth to at least three years of age, need one constant attachment figure and that daycare disrupts the attachment process. Children do not want parental "quality time". As they explore their environment they want mums as a reference, while she cooks a meal, writes a novel, walks to the shops, studies for a qualification or chats to friends. No daycare nurseries, even with their wall-to-wall educational toys, make up for this.

We urge the Government to find ways to support these mothers.

Yours faithfully,

JOSEPHINE ROBINSON,  
Chairwoman,  
The Association of Catholic Women,  
22 Surbiton Hill Park,  
Surbiton, Surrey.

June 15.

—

Recipe for change

From Mr A. E. Norris

Sir, The renewal of my television licence is due. Would it be cheaper for me to buy a cookery book?

Yours faithfully,

ALFRED E. NORRIS,  
Sea Winds, 14 Beacon Heights,<



## COURT CIRCULAR

**WINDSOR CASTLE**  
June 17: The Queen, with the Duke of Edinburgh, honoured Ascot Races with her presence today.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
June 17: the Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning received the Secretary of the Duchy of Cornwall (Sir John James).

**YORK HOUSE**  
**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
June 17: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, this morning opened the new Kennedy Institute building, Charing Cross Westminster Medical School, Aspasia Road, London W6.

## Birthdays today

Mr James Bishop, writer, 68; Mr Michael Blakemore, film and theatre director, 69; Mr Ian Carmichael, actor, 77; Professor J.M. Connor, geneticist, 46; Mr Derek Deane, artistic director, English National Ballet, 44; Mr Carl de Winter, former secretary-general, Federation of British Artists, 63; Mr Peter Donohoe, pianist, 44; the Very Rev P.B. Francis, former Provost, St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, 44; Mr Ian Hargreaves, Editor, *New Statesman & Society*, 46; Miss Patricia Hutchinson, diplomat, 71; Mr Roy Jackson, former assistant general secretary, TUC, 69; Mr J. Kelsall Headmaster, Brentwood School, Essex, 54; General Brian Kenny, 63; Sir Dennis Lonsdale, former chief executive, Cooperative Wholesale Society, 70; Sir Paul McCartney, musician, 55; My Paul Mayersberg, sculptor, 56; Miss Isabella Rossellini, actress, 45; Miss Delta Smith, cookery writer and broadcaster, 56.

**Royal engagements**  
The Prince of Wales will attend a reception at 8.00 to mark the occasion of the Eureka Ministerial Conference at the Banqueting House, Whitehall.

The Princess Royal, President, Royal Yachting Association, will attend a council meeting at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightbridge, at 4.15.

The Duchess of Gloucester, accompanied by the Duke of Gloucester, will open *The Face of Denmark* exhibition at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, 1 Queen Street, Edinburgh at 5.45; and will attend an evening preview of the Royal Highland Flower Show, in aid of the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution, at the Royal Highland Centre, Inglisland, Edinburgh at 7.00.

The Duke of Kent, President, will preside at the quarterly meeting of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Marlow Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, at 10.45; and as Royal Fellow, will attend the Royal Society's New Frontiers in Science exhibition, Carlton House Terrace, at 3.30.

## Baron Baker of Dorking

The life barony conferred upon Mr Kenneth Wilfred Baker has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Baker of Dorking, of Ford in the County of East Sussex.

## Haileybury

The following awards have been made:

**Lower School Awards**  
Lower School Scholarships: Euan Alexander, Dulwich College Primary School; William Haslewood, JM School; Hoddesdon Barnards Slope, Haslewood JM School; St Edmund's.

**Lower Sixth Awards**

**Academic Scholarships**: Chloe Edwards, St Mary's School, Hampton; Anna Fawcett, St Mary's High School; Victoria Huxter, South Hampstead High School; Joanne Phillips, Oakham School; Elizabeth Rose, St Nicholas School, Old Harrow.

**Academic and Art Scholarships**: Jennifer Jones, St Mary's High School; Anna Fawcett, St Mary's High School; Sophie Woodcock, St Christopher's School, Bahrain.

**Music Scholarships**: All Rounder Award: Daniel Hart, St Edmund's College, Ware.

**All Rounder Awards**: Claire Bowen, Simon Langton Grammar School; Simon Lunn, St Edmund's School, Worcester; Eleanor Rochford, St Francis' Leitchworth.

**Academic Scholarships**: Major Academic Scholarship: Hugh Davies, Cranbourne Junior School and Haileybury.

**The Roy Done Scholarship**: Aldwickbury School.

**Academic Scholarships**: Richard Dimmock, Aldwickbury School, Harpenden; Luke Ingram, Appleby School, Appleby-in-Westmorland; Thomas Williams, Duncombe Park School and Haileybury.

**Major Music Scholarships**: Edward Kleinf, Lochinvar House School, Petersfield.

**Art Scholarships**: Panos Ioannou, Artistic Movement; James Parker, St James' Spake, Heath Mount School; Watton-a-Side; Max Underhill, Beechwood Park School, St Albans.

**All Rounder Awards**: Amanda Battersby, St Anselm's, Bakewell; Mark Connolly, Haileybury Junior School; Emily Goss, St Edmund's School, Hitchin; Oliver Josephs, Brambley, East Grinstead; David Kelly, King's School, Canterbury; Sophie King, Kingswood School, Kingswood; Nicholas Smith, Lockers Park School, Hemel Hempstead; Robert Lewis, London Park School, Hemel Hempstead.

**Meeting**  
Commonwealth Parliamentary Association  
The Speaker presided at the annual meeting of the United Kingdom branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held yesterday at the House of Commons.

## Calvert Trust

The Countess of Arran has been appointed President of the Calvert Trust in succession to the late Elinor Viscountess Rochdale.



Alderman Roger Cork, the Lord Mayor of London, with Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, at the unveiling of a blue plaque yesterday to mark the birthplace of Sir Thomas More in Milk Street in the City of London

## Ancient wasps' nests offer clues to flight of history

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

AUSTRALIAN scientists have used ancient wasp nests to date prehistoric Aboriginal rock art. A novel use of optical dating has shown that both paintings and nests have survived for more than 17,000 years.

Mud-dauber wasps of the genus *Sceliphron* are found in northern Australia, where they build nests on sheltered rock surfaces. Some of these are in shallow caves also used for ritual purposes by humans, and on occasion they overlie paintings on the cave walls.

The nests are built from a mud which includes grains of quartz sand. Quartz grains exposed to sunlight will lose their accumulated internal luminescence, the result of electron release by trace elements such as uranium.

When they are concealed from light, as in the mud wall of a nest, the "luminous clock" will be restarted, and the time elapsed to the present can be measured.

Dr Richard Roberts of La Trobe University in Melbourne and his colleagues report in *Nature* that *Sceliphron* nests from rock shelters in the Kimberley region of the Northern Territory had been built over periods of red-pigmented anthropomorphic Wandjina figures in one shelter. At another, the nest directly overlies the head-dress of a mulberry-coloured human figure, which in turn overlay a hand stencil.

The figure had an elongated torso, hanging arms, and a narrow head with a tufted semi-circular head-dress to the team say that it may be related to the archaic Bradshaw style.

Dates for different layers of the overlying wasps' nest

came out at 23,800 and 16,400 years ago for the older section, and 17,500 years ago for the younger.

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When millennium fever strikes, reason goes on holiday

## Extraterrestrials do not deserve equal time

**B**ritain is blessed with a superabundance of protection from films or television programmes that could do harm. But when something comes along that really deserves censure, where are our moral guardians? Pratling away about taste, decency and whether Sue Lawley was too rude to Michael Heseltine.

I wouldn't have thought ITV would stoop so low as *Strange but True?* Live scheduled for June 27. Perhaps the 50th anniversary of the first sighting of an unidentified flying object deserves a whole themed week on Britain's biggest commercial channel, even if the event is not quite the leviathan with the half-century of India's independence — a milestone the ITV network is managing to ignore.

Speculations on whether UFOs have landed on Earth do not merit the status of an open question. But that is what they will get on June 27, courtesy of ITV.

*Strange But True?* Live, made by LWT, will ask in the important manner of ITV's January debate on the future of the monarchy: "Have we been visited by aliens? The nation decides in the biggest-ever live extraterrestrial vote."

It is the word "decides" that I call to the attention of the Independent Television Commission and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission. A debate is supposed to deal with matters of opinion: abortion, banning the motorcar in cities, foxhunting. Some media pundits saw new vistas of democratic expression opened up by the rowdy monarchy debate. I was not among the enthusiasts, but I have no difficulty in seeing the entertainment possibilities of the instant television poll. Should convicted murderers be beheaded? Should there be a £250 million millennium dome at Greenwich? Let's take a vote. It's such fun.

But ITV's extraterrestrial debate goes beyond fun. It will do a public disservice by treating scientific evidence as just another form of belief. Its panel of "experts" will have, on the one hand, two scientists and an academic psychologist, and three "believers" on the other. Viewers will then be asked to say, according to LWT's handout, "if UFOs really have landed on Earth". Vox populi cannot decide matters of fact. If only it could.

On extraterrestrials, my mind is open — as open as that of Alan Hale, the astronomer of Hale-Bopp fame, who says there may be advanced alien races out there, but if so, where are they? Rather than allowing themselves to be identified only by third parties who see "lights" or "things in the sky", they ought to make themselves visible. They could even appear on ITV's panel. Now that's my idea of equal balance.



BRENDA MADDOX

It is ironic that ITV's week *Into the Unknown*, which begins on Friday with *Predictions*, pitting psychics, astrologers and clairvoyants against punters, coincides with yet another 50th anniversary. The Association of British Science Writers, honoured last night at the Royal Society, was founded in 1947 on the assumption that science was becoming news as never before. That assumption was not wrong. Science is now a bestselling topic, as will be celebrated tomorrow night at the Science Museum when the Rhône-Poulenc Prize for the science book of the year will be chosen.

Yet what are all these writing efforts worth in the face of millennium fever, when reason takes a holiday and democratic values are called upon to demand equal time for unreason? You have your beliefs. I have mine, so the voguish philosophy goes, and they must be equally respected. Anyone who argues that science does not deal in real facts about the real world should be willing to get out and walk at 33,000ft. But anyone who believes that science is just one point of view among many should never get into an aeroplane at all.

ITV neglects serious science. The BBC, with its Science Unit, leaves it standing. The BBC cannot ignore the audience's insatiable appetite for the paranormal but it panders to it without losing its head. In July, conveniently following ITV's alien orgy, the BBC is offering *A Weekend in Mars*, to celebrate something nearly as interesting as a UFO sighting: the landing on Mars of NASA's Pathfinder probe. Clive Anderson will be on hand to joke about little green men but all the publicity is emphasising that "life" does not mean men or anything that resembles men. Not a psychic will be in sight, nobody more otherworldly than Patrick Moore.

**I**TV is so keen on the paranormal, all the same, it might call in some clairvoyants and astrologists to predict whether Gerry Robinson, chairman of Granada, will get his wish to make ITV one big network. Mr Robinson was not consulting the stars when he made his wish, just looking at the third channel's falling, ageing audiences. Perhaps ITV should stage one of those big televised debates. Should ITV be allowed to abandon any pretence of public-service broadcasting and leave all the heavy stuff to the BBC? Here's a follow-up question. Are British students up to Western European and Far Eastern standards in mathematics and science? There are two ways to get the answer. Have a debate on television and let the nation decide. Or look at the evidence.

Keith Allen (Martin Chizzell) finds himself hanging in a harness as the Listerine "Tooth Fairy"

## The Client's Story

All the glory, or the blame, goes to the creatives and the agencies when a new advert appears. But what of the person who bought the ad, the person who said yes, the person with nerves of steel, the person who crossed his fingers and signed the cheque?

### LISTERINE MOUTHWASH

**THE CLIENT**  
Lesley McCaig, 30,  
group product manager,  
Warner Lambert.

**WHAT OTHER CAMPAIGNS HAVE YOU BOUGHT?**  
Actived, Sudafed, Ray-Ban sunglasses.

**THE PRODUCT**  
Listerine antiseptic mouthwash.

**THE AGENCY**  
J. Walter Thompson.

**WHAT'S THE PLOT?**  
It's based around the myth of the Tooth Fairy. But this one visits adults, not kids, and is very disappointed to find he is out of a job because Listerine ensures healthy teeth and gums.

**WHAT'S THE STRATEGY?**  
That tooth brushing will do a good job cleaning teeth but won't get rid of all the bacteria.

**WHAT HAPPENED TO CLIFFORD, THE DRAGON?**  
I stew him. He was synonymous with bad breath but Listerine is about more than that. As a drinker and smoker he wasn't a Nineeties dragon.

**HOW WAS THE AD EXPENSIVE?**  
Yes. All told, probably £500,000.

**AT WHOM IS IT AIMED?**  
18 to 34-year-old ABC1 men and women. It's slightly female oriented — they buy more household toiletries.

**ISN'T IT A BIT... EMBARRASSING WORKING ON A BAD BREATH PRODUCT?**  
I work on all sorts of products to treat everything from head lice to haemorrhoids. To me, fresh breath is one of the easier products to talk about.

**WHAT SOLD THE SCRIPT TO YOU?**  
We'd been looking at our campaigns in Europe and America to find a character to replace Clifford. We tested this idea against a script



Keith Allen (Martin Chizzell) finds himself hanging in a harness as the Listerine "Tooth Fairy"

which showed people being pulled back into the bathroom by animated shower curtains because they forgot to use Listerine. The Tooth Fairy brought a frankly rather boring story alive.

**WHAT'S THE BEST AD YOU'VE EVER BOUGHT?**  
This one.

**AND THE WORST?**  
An Actived ad about eight years ago. We made an attempt to tackle the taboo of coughing on screen. The ad was shot from the perspective of someone who was coughing. People around him were repulsed. So were the viewers.

DAVID MCGRATH

ONCE famed for its place in dentists' waiting rooms and Middle England sitting rooms, *Punch* is at last shedding an image that has seen it in decline since 1947. The magazine has been transformed from an attractive glossy with pastel cartoons and dated articles into a gripping read, filled with photographs, gossip, jokes and spoof columns.

*Punch* was undertaken by its Editor, Paul Spike, who left to join the magazine in February.

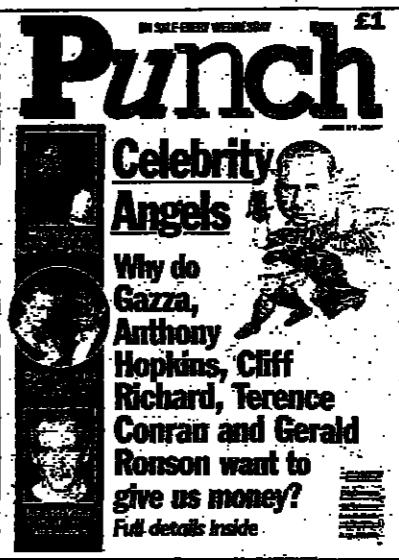
"I am hoping to reach a generation who are already buying magazines like *Loaded* and *GQ*. It may be sad, but the traditional *Punch*'s time has come and gone."

The proprietor, Mohamed Al Fayed who has already lost an estimated £1.3 million on the magazine since its relaunch last year, is likely to have swallowed the bitter pill of commercialism and realised also that the traditional *Punch* could never make money. Instead, a move down-market, dropping the price from £1.75 to £1, using cheaper paper and contents emulating laddie magazines such as *Loaded* rather than *The New Yorker*, was the only way to shift *Punch* from the stands.

Startlingly, *Punch* is now a very good read — if you like celebrity gossip and rowdy humour. It contains more investigative articles and fewer commentaries. This week's issue, on the stands today, includes a feature investigating ridiculous allegations of a connection between the Mafia and the Duke of Kent.

The magazine's satire has also hardened and been significantly

Today's issue features the Mafia



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Carol Midgley talks to Eileen Wise, press officer for Norma Major during the doomed campaign



Norma Major is "not a lady who likes dealing with the media"

## Wise move after a Tory defeat

**M**ost people might claim to feel insecure about their jobs these days, but few can have felt as endangered a species as a Tory party press officer during the general election campaign.

Some experienced the chill wind of unemployment immediately after the landslide defeat, while others could not wait to volunteer to walk the plank.

This however, was not the case for Eileen Wise, who landed what was arguably one of the nicer jobs at Central Office during the campaign. As well as being head of news, she was also Norma Major's personal press officer and a high-profile member of the Conservative media team.

Recently, exactly one month after polling day, she was appointed director of corporate communications for the National Magazine Company (NMC), home of *Cosmopolitan* and *Harpers & Queen*.

The leap from Mrs Major's frozen cheese leftovers to the anatomy of the female orgasm (one of *Cosmo*'s favourite topics) may seem a large one but, in fact, Ms Wise's PR experience far predates Smith Square. She has been among other things, chief press officer for Walt Disney, television researcher for Cilla Black's *Surprise! Surprise!* and personal press secretary to Robert Maxwell during the launch of *The European* before joining the Tories.

Unknown to journalists, the deal with NMC had been fixed months before the election was even called.

Terry Mansfield, managing director, made the offer last Christmas saying he was willing to wait for her until the election was over.

### The deal with NMC was done long before the election'

She says, enmeshed in her new open plan office in Soho, near to NMC's head office.

"To be so close to such talented people who are running the country is very exciting, although we worked gruelling hours. The hardest thing was that the party was not united, so you never knew who was going to say what."

"It is a blessed relief not to have a sleep any longer. If a big story broke it would sometimes go off 30 times an hour. Once, I tried to take a Sunday off at my parents' farm. A story broke and I was still in my nightdress at 3am answering calls."

She remembers a more pleasurable side of her job was going to Downing Street to look after Mrs Major's media arrangements. "It was

like a breath of fresh air sometimes. I loved being in the frantic Central Office, but it was lovely just to leave it and walk over to Downing Street, which always seemed so calm."

The banality of some of the questions asked by sections of the press during the election campaign often staggered her. One story which caused a barrage of demands from tabloids and broadsheets alike was about a Val Doonican-style grey sweater that John Major wore one weekend at Chequers. "They were obsessed with that sweater and whether Norma had knitted it," she says. "I used to find it annoying, but you still have to try and find out the answers. It turned out he had had it given to him on a visit somewhere."

Mrs Major, she insists, is not at all a house mouse. "She is delightful, with a great sense of humour and highly intelligent. She is not a lady who likes dealing with the media but she recognises that as Prime Minister's wife it was an unavoidable part of the job."

Surely confiding that you freeze your "granny bits" of leftover cheese is house-mousey in anyone's book? "Freezing bits of cheese is probably

what a lot of people do, but they probably wouldn't say it in an interview," Ms Wise says defensively. She remains a loyal admirer of Mr Major, whom she describes as a good man with great integrity, and insists none of the Cabinet was ever rude to her. Brian Mawhinney, despite an irascible public image, was the perfect gent. She believes Mrs Major was bitterly disappointed, rather than relieved, at Labour's victory.

**A**fter election day at work there was this overwhelming feeling of being stunned. We had expected defeat, but I don't think anybody in the country expected to be on that scale. But I do maintain that whatever people say, the result can't be blamed on the media campaign, which was pretty efficient. People had made their minds up well before that."

Mrs Wise, divorced from her husband of ten years, Brian Basham, a PR consultant and committed socialist, now faces a daunting workload. Apart from *Harpers* and *Cosmopolitan*, she is also responsible for eight more titles, *Company*, *Country Life*,

*Esquire*, *Good Housekeeping*, *House Beautiful*, *She, She's Having a Baby* and *Zest*. In a year, one in four adults will read an NMC magazine — a total of 12.1 million people. Her job is to raise the profile even more, overseeing the company's entry into masthead programming and digital television.

The new media will give magazines the opportunity, for instance, to introduce a branded programme. A *Cosmopolitan* show seems the most likely early runner.

She insists this is the job she wanted and if the Tories had won a fifth term she would have left anyway. "It was always understood it was a short-term contract. I always intended to leave, whatever the result, after the election."

The last time she saw Mr and Mrs Major was in the early, grey hours of May 2, when they came into Central Office to thank the workers. "I didn't manage to have a conversation with Mrs Major that day, but she was her usual composed self. Later they went to watch *Surrey* at The Oval. It wasn't something they did because they'd lost. It had been planned for weeks, win or lose."

Simon Anholt on the smirks that have international appeal

## How to spot the winning ad at Cannes



Benny Hill: a perennial international success

THE advertising community gathers once again in Cannes next week for the International Advertising Festival, where they will vote for the best television commercials of the year and drink about 20 Martinis.

Cannes is important because it is international. Most large companies demand advertising campaigns that are effective, witty, memorable and legal in the domestic market, and identically so around the globe. This is not an easy requirement, and is one of the industry's chief preoccupations.

Part of the trouble is that people like advertising which makes them laugh, and humour is a notoriously bad traveller. Ask the British to name their favourite adverts, and they are likely to remember Rowan Atkinson's secret agent and the clever wit of the drinking and smoking ads like Jack Dee's penguins. But it's all local stuff, culturally speaking: most of these ads would barely survive past the Watford Gap, let alone the Channel.

What people do not remember is the bland, smirky glitz of most global campaigns — Gillette, American Express, Delta, L'Oréal, Coke, Wrigley's — and that is why these companies are trying to lighten their tone.

The professional view confirms the importance of humour: the winning ads are almost always funny. The trouble is, the ads that do not win are trying to be funny, too, and doubtless had people rolling around in front of their TV sets in Turkey or Korea or Germany. So it is not simply that humour does not travel: clearly, some kinds do and some kinds don't.

So what type of humour is universal enough to win over the multi-cultural Cannes jury? It is hard to find method in their approach: in past years, judges have awarded bizarre Japanese pot noodle ads featuring grunting cavemen being chased by improbable dinosaurs and Australian press ads for jeans showing eviscerated sharks. And yet, for example,

completely ignored the Italian campaign most Italians love, where a famous comedian poses as a grocer, cracking jokes with his female customers as he weighs the ham.

It is easier to explain why this kind of humour does not travel: it is to explain why the other kinds do: verbal humour is local humour, almost by

definition. The Italian ad died in the translation, and unless you know the comedian and his Roman dialect funny, there is not much left to laugh at. Italiots probably feel the same way about Jack Dee.

Yet the grunting Japanese caveman has somehow blundered into some common ground — the simplest and most visual humour travels best. Everyone loves the Norwegian airline ad where a man bursts naked into his drawing room with a rose between his teeth, only to find that his wife has flown her parents over on a cheap weekend return. There is rich potential in the spectacle of people hurting or humiliating themselves.

Those stylish Levi's ads are always popular, too: the young woman who strips in front of an apparently blind man, who is only looking after his father's white stick and sunglasses. No doubt this year's ads, including the one where a handsome sailor is stripped by mermaids, will do well again.

But for all their glamour, the Levi's ads are pure Benny Hill (another perennial international success). Those wry tales of double entendre, whether they are enhanced by rock music and Hollywood gloss or jerked out by a little fat bloke with round glasses and a bevy of Page 3 girls, are as old as the hills.

Flith, too, often wins, such as the Argentine ad for spicy tuna sauce that brought the house down a couple of years ago: a shot of a pair of underpants on a washing line, with a ragged hole burnt eloquently through the rear.

It's a point worth remembering. If you want to make friends and influence people, you need to start by raising a smile — and for international audiences there are only two safe themes: laughing at other people's misfortune and cracking dirty jokes.

• The author is managing director of World Writers, which advises companies on how to make culturally appropriate global advertising

## THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Monk's new habit



Coleridge: super specs

IAN MONK, former deputy editor of *The Express*, has ended speculation over his next career move by accepting an invitation to join the thriving PR agency MacLaurin Communications. Monk, part of company with *The Express* last year, will experience life on the other side of the tracks during a three-month summer contract helping out the managing director Brian MacLaurin, former boss of Sophie Rhys Jones. MacLaurin said: "I have known Ian for years. He will be supporting the team while senior people are away on holiday. It will be interesting for him to work for a proactive PR agency and we of course will be able to tap into his formidable contacts book. If he ends up a Fleet Street editor he will be a very useful contact for us." Monk starts work on Monday.

### Roughing it

HOW times have changed at the thrifty BBC. David Jessel, former *Rough Justice* presenter, recalled the days before the gravy train hit the buffers at Farnborough Road where *Guardian* Editor Alan Rusbridger has gone upstairs to help to sort out *The Observer*. Staff at



Rusbridger: observing

FEAR and trembling has transferred from the first to the fourth floor in Farnborough Road where *Guardian* Editor Alan Rusbridger has gone upstairs to help to sort out *The Observer*. Staff at the crisis-hit Sunday apparently wait cowering at their desks as A.R. moves in alongside the Editor Will Hutton to look for "weak spots". Back at the feverish *Guardian*, meanwhile, a temporary calm has ensued. Specialists awaiting major changes and possible demotion have been granted a stay of execution until autumn. There are apparently not the funds available to facilitate the reshuffle.

### Out of vogue

SPLUTTERS and sniggers can be heard in the fragrant

### Net loss

A CRUCIAL week for *The Express*, the price of which has been temporarily slashed to 20p in an effort to halt the falling sales. Staff, still stunned by yet further job cuts last week, have told the papers must be extra special to keep any readers snared by the price cut. So they were surprised to find that on Monday, the first day of the sales drive, most senior executives were conspicuously by their absence. They had received a three-line whip telling them to attend a tennis tournament hosted by the Editor Richard Addis. As the management slipped their Pimm's and exchanged Slazenger talk at the swanky junket in Holland Park, the job of getting the paper out was left to the *Express* underlings back at the office.

Exclusive Sunday Times reader offer

## FREE SLAZENGER TENNIS BALLS



### COLLECT A TUBE OF THREE HI-VIS BALLS WORTH £5.99

The Sunday Times, with Slazenger, is giving away 15,000 three-ball tubes of exclusive Wimbledon Hi-Vis tennis balls. The tubes are worth £5.99 each.

Slazenger has been Wimbledon's sole supplier of tennis balls since 1902 and the Hi-Vis ball has been hand tested to the LTA's exacting standards for pressure, appearance and bounce. It contains high levels of fluorescent dye to give players such as Tim Henman, above, that split second longer to react and allows audiences a clearer view of the action.

If you collected the token which appeared with a voucher in the Style section of *The Sunday Times* yesterday, simply collect the second token from Style next Sunday and three differently numbered tokens from *The Times*, one of which must be from the Wimbledon supplement appearing on Monday June 23. Tokens will appear in *The Times* each day this week. Attach all five tokens to the voucher, and present it at a Sports Division store before July 5. You will receive a free tube of three Hi-Vis balls, subject to stock availability at the time of your visit. To find your local Sports Division store call 0800 146 542.



# THE TIMES TODAY

WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

## NEWS

### Tory rivals face nailbiting finish

■ Kenneth Clarke was the surprise victor in the second round of the Tory leadership contest, opening the way to a nailbiting final run-off against William Hague tomorrow.

The Shadow Chancellor polled 64 votes, two more than Mr Hague, while John Redwood, eliminated despite an increased vote, was left as possible kingmaker with many supporters waiting for a lead on who to back next..... Pages 1, 2

### EU leaders in treaty struggle

■ European leaders struggled to reach a deal over power-sharing, defence and other European Union reforms needed to clear the way to a new version of the Maastricht treaty. In a repeat of the marathon negotiating session that produced the 1992 treaty, the 15 were at loggerheads over half a dozen issues still blocking the "treaty of Amsterdam"..... Pages 1, 13

### Millennium threat

The Millennium Exhibition in Greenwich is in danger of collapse as concern grows over the financial viability of the scheme..... Page 1

### Boy poisoned

Four doctors failed to detect that a four-year-old boy was slowly being poisoned by his mother who laced his drinks with lethal levels of salt..... Page 3

### Guide accused

A professional mountain guide "cut corners" on safety on a French Alps expedition, causing an inexperienced companion to fall 120ft to his death, a court heard..... Page 3

### Turner choice

Judges for the £20,000 Turner Prize this year have again come up with shortlist of artists who specialise in mind-boggling creations. The difference this time is that the four finalists, all conceptual artists, are women..... Page 5

### £20m Oxford deal

Oxford duns voted overwhelmingly to accept plans for a business school and with it a £20 million donation..... Page 6

### Campbell report

Naomi Campbell was treated in hospital at the weekend after taking an overdose of tranquillisers, according to a police report that was leaked to a Spanish newspaper..... Page 7

**Dangerous fireworks to be outlawed**

■ The Government is raising the minimum age for buying fireworks from 16 to 18 under proposals to be announced tomorrow that will also ban the sale of large bangers and other dangerous fireworks to the public. Nigel Griffiths, Consumer Affairs Minister, wants the laws to be in force before this year's Bonfire Night celebrations..... Page 1



They're off: Racegoers travelling by train from Waterloo station yesterday for the first day of Royal Ascot. Pages 5, 42

## BUSINESS

**Pay check** The Government will scrap a legal requirement that trade union members be balloted on paying dues through pay packets..... Page 48

**Dim light** The electricity watchdog is in trouble for not ensuring industrial customers get lower prices, possible since the nuclear industry levy was cut..... Page 25

**Gulness** French drinks group LVMH bought a £27 million stake in Grand Metropolitan, posing another challenge to Grand Met's Guinness merger..... Page 25

**Marks** The FT-SE 100 index fell 62.9 points to close at 4062.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 100.0 to 100.2 after a fall from \$1.638 to \$1.637 but a rise from DM2.8329 to DM2.8388..... Page 28

**Culture shock** Tony Blair, horrified at the cost, will halt the "freebie culture" that benefits thousands of journalists covering EU summits when Britain is host..... Page 12

**Paradise gift** Atheists who secretly worry there might be an afterlife after all were offered comfort by a leading Jesuit theologian, who said non-believers would also enter Paradise..... Page 13

**Blair factor** Envy of Tony Blair's success has spread to Israel where the Labour Party plans to send experts to learn his methods..... Page 14

**Admiral accused** Prosecutors brought charges against one of Russia's most senior naval officers, accusing the admiral of pocketing millions of pounds from the sale of decommissioned warships..... Page 15

**World City Weather** The Met Office 153 destinations world wide by phone dial 0336 411 2120 or fax (index page) 0336 416 3233

**Motoring** Europe Country by County 0336 401 085 European fuel costs 0326 401 586 French Motorways 0326 401 587 Road information 0326 401 589 Driving Paris Le Shuttle 0336 401 895

**AA Information** Latest Road and Weather conditions 0336 401 510 UK Weather All regions 0336 401 510 Meteo HQS 0336 401 747 National Highways 0336 401 748 European Highways 0336 401 749 Channel crossings 0336 401 758 Motorway to Heathrow & Gatwick airports 0336 407 505

**Weather by Fax** Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax. West Country 416 324 N Ireland 416 341 West Midlands 416 215 Midlands 416 210 Northern Counties 416 220 East Anglia 416 337 Northern Scotland 416 340 N East 416 349 Scotland 416 340 Merchant Mariner inshore issues forecasts 416 396

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Yesterday: Highest day temp, Strelasund, Germany, 21.2C; highest rainfall, Southampton, Wiltshire, Cumbria, 0.86in; highest sunshine, Belfast, Co Antrim, 13.0hr.

**Newspapers SUPPORT RECYCLING** Recycled paper made up 25% of the newsprint for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996.

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# THE TIMES



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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

# Balloting over union dues to be scrapped

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government is to scrap legal requirements to ballot trade union members on continuing to pay union dues through check-off — employers taking union subscriptions directly from wage packets.

The move, which will be warmly welcomed by Britain's trade unions, marks a movement back towards the "beer and sandwiches" relationship between union barons and the Labour leadership that existed in the 1960s and 1970s. This took a jolt after Tony Blair took power, when the Confederation of British Industry was invited for talks at 10 Downing Street ahead of the Trades Union Congress.

Ministers are expected shortly to announce that the balloting on check-off which is due this summer under 1993 legislation passed by the previous Conservative Government is to be scrapped.

Many businesses and trade unions had already begun to prepare themselves for a new round of balloting on union subscriptions. Scrapping the requirement will save companies and unions considerable amounts of money, since employers have in the past funded facilities for unions to mount dues retention campaigns in order to preserve stable employee relations.

Trade union leaders denied the prospect of the Government making union recogni-

tion a statutory requirement in Labour's first legislative programme, have been lobbying ministers hard on the question of check-off, insisting that the requirement be scrapped before large amounts of money were spent on a new campaign.

Scrapping compulsory check-off of balloting is a significant victory for the trade unions. The original aim of the requirement was to try to reduce trade union membership and power, but Whitehall officials have now advised ministers that the change does not need primary legislation, but can be achieved by means of passing regulations.

Ian McCartney, Trade and Industry Minister, yesterday clearly signalled the change. Speaking in London to an Electricity Association conference, he called the legislation on check-off "unnecessary, burdensome and meddling". He said: "Individual employers do not want or need it. Employers face significant costs to comply with it."

He told electricity industry leaders: "I know that employers and unions are facing the worrying prospect of a further round of reauthorisations this summer. I recognise the urgency of the issue for you and the unions. It is a priority for me as well. I hope to make an announcement very soon about our plans for repeal." His statement came as Acas,

the conciliation service, made it clear that it did not want to be involved in the Government's plans for statutory union recognition. In the late 1970s, Acas was charged with the responsibility of bringing in union recognition, but told the then Government it did not want the task.

John Hougham, Acas chairman, said yesterday as he presented the service's annual report that Acas's tripartite structure with employers and unions still made it inappropriate as the body to carry out any future legislation on union recognition.

As Acas announced that for the first time it had handled more than 100,000 employment rights cases in a single year, it emerged that the service is preparing plans for a new, more informal system to handle work complaints such as dismissals in addition to the long-established industrial tribunals.

Tribunals have been criticised for being too slow and legalistic, and under plans brought forward by the last Government but which Labour is standing by, Acas is preparing a new scheme of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) that would not be bound by legal precedent and case law but which would, like conciliation in collective union disputes, deal with each individual row on a case-by-case basis.



Sam Chisholm, left, and David Chance, whose departures from BSkyB have surprised the television industry

## Chisholm and Chance leave BSkyB

BY ERIC REGULY

THE television industry was rocked yesterday by the surprise resignations of Sam Chisholm and David Chance, the top two executives of BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster that has become one of Britain's 20 biggest companies.

Mr Chisholm, 57, chief executive and managing director, said he was leaving for health reasons. He suffers from asthma and was not sure he has the energy to take BSkyB through

its next phase of growth. BSkyB, 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, is to launch 200 digital channels next year.

He said: "Running BSkyB has been a most wonderful experience and very stimulating, but it has also been very demanding ... My doctors have advised me that I should not take on the next stage of BSkyB's development."

Rupert Murdoch, a BSkyB director and chairman of The News Corporation, said: "Sam

Chisholm is unquestionably one of the best executives I have ever worked with. I'm really sorry he has to step down."

Shares in BSkyB fell 21½ p, to 566½ p, on fears that its growth might not be sustained without Mr Chisholm and Mr Chance.

Mr Chance, 40, deputy managing director, was offered the chief executive's title about two weeks ago, but said that he did not want to be considered for it.

Mr Chance joined Sky in 1989, a year before its merger

with British Satellite Broadcasting. He has a stomach ulcer and did not feel that he could stay a full-time employee for several more years.

Mr Chance will become a consultant to BSkyB when he leaves office in January. Mr Chisholm will stay a director.

Mr Chisholm is to be succeeded by Mark Booth, 40, chief operating officer of JSkyB, News Corp's satellite TV venture in Japan.

Bulldog grip, page 29

## GrandMet stake for LVMH

LVMH, the French drinks group run by Bernard Arnault, a non-executive director of Guinness, yesterday posed another challenge to the £23 billion merger between Guinness and Grand Metropolitan when it spent £27 million to "pick up a quarter per cent stake in GrandMet" (Alasdair Murray writes).

LVMH insisted that it had no intention of making a bid for the British spirits company. However, it is expected to use its new stake to present a case for a merger of the spirits businesses of all three companies to other shareholders.

The French drinks and luxury goods company already owns a 14.2 per cent stake in Guinness and Bernard Arnault, chairman, has made clear his opposition to the planned merger.

LVMH is also seeking to activate a clause in a control clause that would allow the company to assume ownership of a number of important joint venture agreements with Guinness at a nominal cost.

## Share prices sent tumbling by corporate tax speculation

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE stock market suffered its worst fall under this Government as speculation increased that Gordon Brown intends to hit the corporate sector with tax rises in the Budget on July 2.

The FTSE 100 index fell 62.9 points to close at 4,682.2 with the market dogged by worries that Labour will move to phase out dividend tax credits.

The market also suffered after stronger than expected industrial production figures sent the Dow Jones industrial average down 40.26 points to 7,731.83 by lunchtime on Wall Street.

However, the pound rushed to hit a post-ERM midday high against the mark of DM2.8429, benefiting from continuing mark weakness after the con-

fusion of the Amsterdam summit yesterday. Sterling closed up half a pfenning to 93.8388, with traders predicting it could rise further as Budget speculation pointed towards rate rises.

Data showing the public sector borrowing requirement jumping to £3.95 billion in May, compared with City expectations of a £3 billion deficit, failed to move the markets. Economists blamed the worse than expected deficit on a decline in tax receipts, which fell 3.6 per cent compared with May last year. VAT receipts fell 11 per cent because of the new system of large companies paying VAT on a quarterly basis. But core

government spending fell 1.3 per cent on an annual basis and economists said the PSBR remains on a downward trend. Revenues are expected to accelerate throughout the year and the City believes the PSBR will come in below the government forecast of £18 billion.

The markets are now awaiting the National Audit Office report on government finances, due tomorrow. Most economists believe Mr Brown will use the report to justify tax rises which fell 3.6 per cent compared with May last year.

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## Mirror Group in bid talks with Midland press group

BY ERIC REGULY

MIRROR GROUP is considering making a bid for Midland Independent Newspapers, the owner of *The Birmingham Post*, that may value MIN at more than £250 million.

MIN yesterday confirmed bid talks after its shares rose sharply, closing at 179p, up 30p. The market expects a bid at 200p, valuing MIN at more than £250 million.

A bidding war looks unlikely. Jim Brown, chairman of Newsquest, the American company that bought Westminster Press from Pearson last year, said: "It's too expensive for us."

Almost every regional newspaper group has evaluated MIN, whose shares have rarely exceeded their 1994 flotation price of 140p. The Telegraph Group, owner of *The Daily Telegraph*, has also viewed it.

MIN, whose chief executive is Chris Oakley, said that its talks with Mirror Group "may or may not lead to an offer". A decision will probably be made within two weeks.

Although Mirror Group, owner of *The Mirror*, linked with Independent Newspapers of Ireland, last year to bid for Westminster Press, its renewed interest in newspapers is a surprise. It has since been pursuing television deals and launched Birmingham Live, a local cable TV channel, with MIN.

Tempus, page 28

## Bakyrchik Gold digs for cash as shares are halted

BY PAUL DURMAN

BAKYRCHIK GOLD, a company that seems to have spent more time looking for money from investors than it has producing gold, has hit the latest in a long line of cash crises. Investors were trapped in Bakyrchik's shares yesterday when the company suspended stock mar-

ket dealings while it went in search of "short-term financing". Bill Smith, the company's adviser at RBC Dominion Securities, said this move was made necessary by the volatility of the share price on Monday.

Bakyrchik came to the stock market four years ago with plans to develop a ten million ounce mine in Kazakhstan, a little developed part of

the former Soviet Union. The two founder shareholders bailed out at a substantial profit within a year. Since then, the shares have roller-coastered between 580p and the all-time low of 83p reached on Monday.

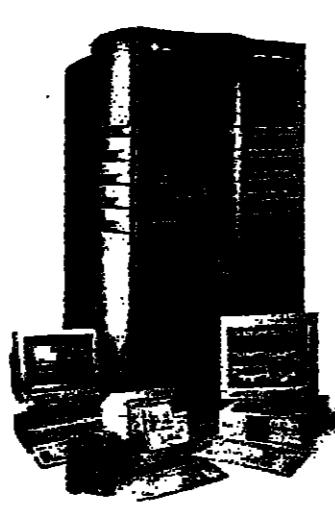
A likely explanation for the latest difficulties is that Bakyrchik is struggling to find the second of four \$15 million payments it must make to the

Kazakh Government. This follows a deal last December that allows Bakyrchik to increase its interest in the mine from 40 to 85 per cent. Yesterday it said: "If agreement is reached on the short-term financing, this is likely to result in ... a proposal for the restructuring of [the company's] ownership of the Bakyrchik mine." Mr Smith was unable to

clarify this or to explain what would happen if Bakyrchik could not pay Kazakhstan.

Robert Friedland, the Canadian who has twice rescued Bakyrchik in the last two years, recently resigned from the company's board. His Indochina Goldfields owns 27.9 per cent of Bakyrchik and his support may prove critical.

MORSE



**Morse.**  
Computer Systems for the Enterprise.



Margaret Beckett cannot delay much longer. When she took over as President of the Board of Trade, a stack of reports from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was piled on her desk in need of prompt attention.

But the weeks have passed and still we await the presidential pronouncements on get-togethers for which the bans were called more than nine months ago.

Sir Ian Prosser and his team at Bass have not dared be parted from their mobile telephones for the past ten days, believing that any moment would bring tidings of Mrs Beckett's decision on their takeover of Carlsberg Tetley. Ferry operators, Stena and P&O, have also been in daily anticipation of winning the go ahead for the merger of their cross-Channel services.

Any hope that the benefits of such a merger might be seen during this summer have had to be abandoned: peak season is not the time for implementing big strategic changes in any business. All the same, the companies would appreciate being told whether their plans have won official approval and the City would welcome the first indications of quite what Mrs Beckett meant by her avowal that the sole criteria for judging mergers will be competition.

In fact, another criteria may impinge upon her thinking over the Stena/P&O deal. The colourful competition supremo in Brus-

sels, Karel Van Miert, has indicated that, with a few caveats, he is minded to allow the merged operation, which would be 60 per cent owned by P&O and 40 per cent by Stena.

Would the President really want to pick a fight with Brussels? Were she to decide to veto the merger, she could find herself heading to the European court, and a potential battle with Van Miert. Britain would surely want to be seen to be working with Europe in such matters.

The question of who finally determines competition policy is likely to arise in even more pointed fashion over the planned merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan. For the moment, the deal is not even being put under Mrs Beckett's scrutiny, going instead straight to the European authorities, although her interventionist tendencies are likely to come into play.

If GMG goes ahead, British jobs will vanish. How will that be viewed under the all-important competition criteria? Jobs will undoubtedly go if Stena and P&O merge their cross-Channel operations: that is part of the aim. The companies argue that only by joining forces can they continue to mount a viable chal-

lenge to Eurotunnel, which now accounts for 40 per cent of tourist cross Channel traffic, about the same proportion that the two ferry operators share.

And they hint that if they can't join forces, they might just be forced to abandon the routes. Then what sort of competition would the tunnel face? And perhaps the thought that another fire should ever drive the Euro trains back into the sidings, but where would the freight turn then?

Perhaps weighing up such imponderables is keeping Mrs B from reaching a decision ...

### Bernard catches hotel fever

Elliott Bernard is on the hunt for more hotels. The chairman of Chelsfield, the property group, is said to be so delighted with the pair of former Forte establishments he purchased from Granada, that

## COMMENTARY by our City Editor

he would like a few more before he floats off this part of his business into a separate company, a glamour stock in the making if ever there was one.

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He is not restricting his search to the big cities. If there is a country house hotel to be had in close proximity to his Wentworth golf club, he would like to bring that into the group. Wentworth attracts vast numbers of visitors. It grieves Mr Bernard to have to direct potential business elsewhere, as Wentworth regularly does with those in search of accommodation.

Cleveden would have been a perfect complement to Wentworth but, alas, the price is a trifle high for Mr Bernard's estimate of value, even allowing for the exotic history that accompanies the location of the famous meetings between Christine Keeler and her Russian friend.

It would make sense to put Wentworth and the hotels into a separate business, with a separate quote, and Bernard will eventually do just that. There is

no slow down, however, in the rate at which the rest of the business is growing. The Department of the Environment will soon have to pass judgment on whether to allow the company to go ahead with its major extension of the Merry Hill shopping centre near Dudley. Bored with waiting for a decision, Bernard has just slapped in an application for a further 100,000 sq ft of space there, this time for leisure development.

### Regulating regulators

No doubt there will soon be a degree course in utility regulation but, in the meantime, our happy band of watchdogs are learning on the job, and continuing to find their work marked "could try harder".

Yesterday the electricity übermeister was, for the umpteenth time, accused of not doing his job properly. With water profits soaring and resources leaking, the monopoly water industry is clearly not a text book case of how it should be done either. Then there is gas: today we will see a muted compromise emerge from the ferocious battle

between Clare Spottiswoode and Transco.

But while it is easy to hold individuals up for blame what is really on trial at present — and what the new Government shows no signs of grasping — is the effectiveness of incentive regulation to govern a competitive market.

Regulators are hamstringing between cracking down on the spending projections of companies in order to exert pressure on prices, so risking seeing the infrastructure crumble, or swallowing too readily the companies' pleas for cash, only to see the money pour out to investors.

A competitive market must be regulated and regulated toughly. It is not enough to hope the market will win out.

Labour had been hawkish in opposition over regulation. It now seems too willing to leave the tricky subject well alone.

### Fat cat tax

BUDGET fever is gathering pace, as business tries to second guess what the new Chancellor may have in mind. But while public talk is all of dividend tax credits and stamp duty, what is really concerning many in the City is a growing fear that the new puritans in Government are desperately seeking a way to punish the fat cats without hurting those middle-range salary earners who voted them into power.

## Watson & Philip speed up shop plan

Watson & Philip, the convenience store group, has accelerated the opening programme for its Allday stores. It will open around 200 stores this year, taking the chain to about 725, with another 200 next year.

Pre-tax profit in the six months to April 27, after exceptional, was £7.15 million (£6.7 million). Earnings per share were 11.3p (12p). The company will pay an interim dividend of 5.7p (5.3p) on August 1.

### Group loss

Applied Holographics, the securities products group, recorded a loss of £240,000 (£176,000 profit) in the year to March 31. The loss per share was 0.91p (0.71p profit). There is no dividend.

### Rixson up

Firth Rixson, the engineer, raised pre-tax profits from £3 million to £6.5 million in the six months to March 31. Earnings are 3.4p (1.4p) and the half-year dividend is doubled to 0.8p.

### Wellman fall

Pre-tax profit at Wellman, the engineering contractor, halved to £5 million. Earnings fell from 5.7p to 2.4p. The total dividend rises 2.8 per cent to 1.85p.

### Profit rise

Mountview Estates raised pre-tax profits from £7.9 million to £8.4 million in the year to March 31. Earnings rise from 11.5p to 12.5p. Total dividend rises from 7.7p to 42p.

### Tinsley ahead

Tinsley Robor, the packaging group, raised pre-tax profits 30 per cent to £4.6 million in the year to March 31. Earnings rose 3.5 per cent to 8.8p. The total dividend rises 24 per cent to 2.8p.

## Harris says son merits Carpetright board seat

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LORD HARRIS of Peckham, chairman and chief executive of Carpetright, yesterday defended the decision to put his 28-year-old son, Martin Harris, on its main board.

Mr Harris, who joined the company in 1991, has been made responsible for advertising and marketing. Lord Harris said that the appointment was "a first step" for his son, but would not say whether he would eventually take over the running of the company.

Lord Harris denied that the company was slowing its expansion programme, saying that last year's record number of openings was an anomaly because of the launch of its larger Carpet Depot stores. The company plans 39 openings this year, against 65 last year. Capital spending this year will be less than half last year's £32.6 million.

A final dividend of 11.5p, due on September 15, makes a full-year 19p (14.5p).

Tempus, page 28



Lord Harris of Peckham with his son Martin

The move follows a dispute about the appointment of Simon Wolfson to the board of Next, of which his father, Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, is non-executive chairman.

Mr Harris joined Lord Harris and John Kitching, Carpetright managing director, and Ian Sneyd, finance director, for the presentation of the company's final results to analysts and the press yesterday.

"Martin is obviously being groomed for the main job," one analyst commented.

The results showed a 28 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £32.2 million. The company's shares, which have fallen from more than 600p earlier this year to a low of 435p, closed yesterday at 478½p, up 37½p.

Analysts increased their forecasts for the current year, with BZW moving from £37.5 million to £40 million.

Like-for-like sales rose by 10 per cent in the last financial

## EMI to give investors £500m in bonus issue of new shares

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

the new Radiohead album released on Monday, fell 6p, to 11.61, with the City slightly disappointed that the repayment to shareholders is not cash.

The company said that the capital issue would be funded from increased borrowing, with the higher level of debt reducing the overall cost of capital within the group.

EMI will issue, on a one-for-one basis, special "B" shares redeemable by the company at

a value of 114.5p from July 22. EMI is also splitting its shares on a two-for-one basis to increase marketability, and every ten ordinary shares will then be consolidated into nine shares.

EMI separately spent £14.4 million on a buy-back of 120,000 shares at 11.70.

Deals in the new shares are expected to begin on July 18, provided that the plan receives approval at a special general meeting that day.

## Friendly HOTELS PLC

### RESULTS

	1996
HOTELS & CATERING (CONTINUING OPERATIONS)	
57,600	
39,579	
4,468	
5.7p	
10.7p	

### RESULTS IN BRIEF

TURNOVER  
PRE-TAX PROFIT  
DIVIDEND  
EARNINGS PER SHARE (BASIC)

- The latest division gave a good account of itself and improved both occupancy and average room rates achieved compared to the previous year, and these have been further enhanced in the current year to date. There is ample scope for further growth.
- The ten year Master Franchise Agreement with Choice Hotels International, signed in May 1996, is fundamental to our growth strategy and also resulted in Choice, one of the world's largest hotel operators, investing £10 million in Friendly to speed the construction and acquisition of ten hotels. Since signing the Master Franchise, a significant number of hotels have been added.
- The Group now consists of 56 properties with 4,067 rooms, of which 22 hotels with 1,322 rooms are franchised. This compares with 30 hotels with 3,160 rooms, a year ago.
- Fully diluted net assets amount to 265p per ordinary share.
- We have greatly improved the professionalism and efficiency of our operation and strengthened our management with the appointment of a new Chief Executive and Finance Director. 1997 is off to a good start and should prove to be a successful year and lay the foundation for greater benefits in the years to come.



First Choice For Value

For a copy of the latest Report and Accounts please apply to the Secretary,  
Friendly Hotels PLC, Premier House, 10 Greycoat Place, London SW1P 1SB

## Engels-Hollandse Beleggings Trust N.V. (English and Dutch Investment Trust) Established in Amsterdam

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Monday 30 June 1997 at 10.00 hours at the Le Meridien Apollo Hotel, Apollolaan 2, Amsterdam.

Shareholders wishing to attend the General Meeting of the Company must deposit their shares not less than seven days before the Meeting with Stad Bankiers N.V., Lange Voorhout 8, 2501 CH Den Haag or with Royal Exchange Assurance, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3TG. A deposit certificate will be issued to such shareholders which, upon surrender, will entitle them to vote at the Meeting.

Holders of shares registered with the Company in its Shareholders' Register must inform the Board of Managing Directors in writing at least four days prior to the Meeting that they intend to attend the Meeting in person or by proxy.

Holders of Participation Certificates issued by Royal Exchange Assurance who wish to attend and vote at the Meeting must contact the Trustee Department of Royal Exchange Assurance, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3TG at least ten days before the Meeting.

Royal Exchange Assurance is prepared to issue a power of attorney for the same number of shares held in trust as the Certificateholders shall have deposited with Royal Exchange Assurance.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1996 and of the Resolutions to be put before the Meeting will be available at the offices of the company.

To the meeting shall be brought forward a proposal of the meeting of holders of priority shares aimed at an amendment of the company's articles of association (i.e. an increase of the company's authorized share capital). A copy of the proposal including the verbatim text of the proposed amendment is deposited as of today until the end of the meeting at the offices of the company for inspection by the shareholders and holders of depositary receipts and is available free of charge to shareholders and holders of depositary receipts.

Board of Management  
Engels-Hollandse Beleggings Trust N.V.  
Wassenaar, 16 June 1997

Office address:  
Rietveldlaan 2  
2243 AS Wassenaar

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## STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# London investors run for cover amid US concerns

**RENEWED** worries about a possible rise in US interest rates produced a sharp opening fall on Wall Street and sent investors in London scurrying for cover.

Traders in the Square Mile had been pondering the outcome of Friday's triple-witching hour, when traded options and futures contracts expire, and the expected changes to advance corporation tax when New York kicked in lower. This was prompted by the stronger than expected consumer price figures for May, hitting US Treasury bonds and fuelling fears that the economy was starting to overheat again.

In spite of closing above its worst of the day as the Dow Jones industrial average quickly moved back into positive territory, the FTSE 100 index was still nuzzling a fall of 6.29 at 4,682.2 by the close. Turnover in London reached 854 million shares.

NatWest Bank had another volatile session in the wake of Monday's profits warning and the departure of Martin Owen, head of the investment banking arm. The shares touched 74.4p before rallying to reduce the fall on the day to 9.1p at 74.5p. That stretches the deficit of the past two days to 51p. There is now growing speculation the group will cut back on its derivatives and eurobond sales operations. By the close, almost 13 million shares had changed hands.

HSBC fell 45p to £18.45. Lloyds TSB 20p to 61.62p. Barclays 17.1p to £11.95. Standard Chartered 17.1p and Abbey National 37p to 33p. Meanwhile, the market is still waiting the outcome of bid talks at Carter Allen, up 5p at 552.5p.

Norwich Union continued to give up ground, with the price falling 6p to 318.5p. It reduces the premium on the free shares to members to 25.5p and the discounted shares to 53.5p. Turnover stretched to 36 million shares.

Shell suffered a fall of 5p at £12.40p after cautious comments from Caveney, the broker. But Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, broker for Siebe, remains bullish about the company's prospects and the price responded with a rise 18.2p to 98.5p.

Energy Group firmed 2p to 64.3p. That compares with the 69.5p on the table from Pacificorp. Some brokers are saying it might be worth



John Simons, of Hazlewood, saw the share price rise

buying the shares and taking a risk that the bid will not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Midland Independent News rose 30p to 179p after announcing it was in talks with Mirror Group. 31p lighter at 205p. Shire Pharmaceutical slipped 2p to 231.2p. Lehman Brothers has been pushing the shares to clients and says the group's

make-up has changed since it acquired Pharmavene.

There was cheer for Hazlewood shareholders, with the price 52p better at 162.2p on the back of encouraging news about trading and a sizeable disposal. It is raising £45 million from the sale of its potato processing business. John Simons, chief executive, also reported an increase in sales volume of 7.4

per cent in the second half; against 2.6 per cent in the first six months.

Courtaulds ended 5.5p lower at 346.5p amid growing fears that its tencel fibre product could face competition in a shorter span of time than expected. Pionis continued to reel from this week's sales warning, with the price losing 2p at 405.5p.

On the Alternative Investment Market, Petra Diamonds touched 121p before ending the session 3p better at 103.5p after being awarded the concession to prospect and mine for diamonds in an area of northeast Angola.

Shares of Ballycastle, the gold mining group, were suspended at 85.5p while it tries to resolve further short-term financing.

A big rise in profits and bullish comments about trading from Lord Harris of Peckham, chairman, saw Carpetright surge 37.5p to 475.5p. The suggestion that the high streets will benefit from recent building society windfalls and the pick-up in the housing market also benefited MFI Furniture, 7p better at 142p. A worse than expected profits decline at Eurotherm left the shares nursing a fall of 6.5p at 376p.

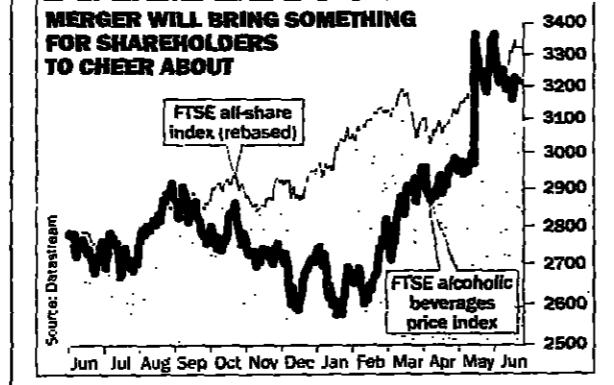
It was the first day of dealings on the big board in Powderject after a placing by Panmure Gordon at 185p. Shares in the group, which has developed a needless injectable system, opened at 195.5p before closing at 197.5p, a premium of 12.5p.

□ **GILT-EDGE:** Prices in London closed at their low point of the day. This followed a buoyant set of US industrial output numbers for May that led to those sharp falls in US Treasury bonds. There was little response to the latest PSBR. Next week the Bank of England will issue £2 billion of Treasury 7 per cent 2001 as part of its auction.

In the futures pit, the September series of the Long Gilt fell £11.32 to £114.16 as a total of 49,000 contracts were completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost 1.1p at £103.92p, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was three ticks off at £103.14p.

□ **NEW YORK:** The Dow Jones industrial average rebounded from a morning drop and was moderately higher. At midday, the index was up 21.26 points at 7,793.35.



Source: Datamonitor

recommend the deal. Mr Davies added: "Costs savings of £170 million should boost the growth rate by 13 per cent during 1999 and the year 2000. The newly merged group is capable of generating £1 billion a year in cash to give back to shareholders, or the equivalent as a share buy-back."

Shareholders have already been promised a £2.4 billion payout if they agree to the deal.

Mr Davies said: "The business really is cash generative and it could lead to further sector consolidation."

News of the purchase came after Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, added them to its "buy" list and put a target on both share prices of 660p.

Guinness firmed 9p to 589p. Colin Davies, at Goldman, says there are several positive factors to

recommend the deal. Mr Davies added: "Costs savings of £170 million should boost the growth rate by 13 per cent during 1999 and the year 2000. The newly merged group is capable of generating £1 billion a year in cash to give back to shareholders, or the equivalent as a share buy-back."

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# A bulldog with a firm grip on his ego

As BSkyB's chief announces his departure, Eric Reguly reports on a career that changed satellite broadcasting

**S**amuel Hewlings Chisholm is more respected than loved. The square-framed New Zealander looks like a bulldog and invites comparisons to James Cagney. At Channel 9, the Australian television network he ran before he was poached by Rupert Murdoch and dispatched to Britain to salvage Sky and British Satellite Broadcasting, he had a sign on his desk that read: "To err is human; to forgive not my policy."

Chisholm has a bruising, in-your-face style that made management tremble. But employees who work hard are richly rewarded by Chisholm and earn his unwavering loyalty. David Chance, the BSkyB deputy managing director who joined Sky a year before its 1990 merger with BSB, was one. Chance toiled like a slave and was instrumental in turning the struggling group into one of the most powerful forces in television, an effort that gave him a stomach ulcer.

Chance was treated like a son in return. He earned more than £2.6 million last year and Chisholm bought him a Harley Davidson motorcycle, which was delivered by the Playboy pin-up Miss October at his 40th birthday party in April. Chance, of course, has had no time to learn

how to drive the machine. The dynamic duo, one of the most successful one-two acts in TV history, have now decided to call it quits. Chisholm, 57, suffers from asthma, a disorder that made the life of his two brothers and father a misery. He said: "Running BSkyB has been a most wonderful experience and very stimulating, but it has also been very demanding... my doctors have advised me that I should not take on the next stage of BSkyB's development."

In January Chisholm will cease being chief executive but will remain as a director. Chance is leaving at the same time and will become BSkyB "consultant", a role that will see him work on the launch of the company's 200 digital channels next year. Inevitably, rumours circulated that their departure was part of a management shake-up orchestrated by Rupert Murdoch, the chairman of The News Corporation, [News International], the subsidiary of News Corp that owns *The Times*, owns 40 per cent of

BSkyB.) The rumours have not been substantiated. Murdoch, in fact, offered Chance the top job. Chance could not face another three years of 80-hour weeks, however, and said he wanted to be taken out of the running.

Roger Luard, the chief executive of Flextech, whose channels form part of BSkyB's basic service, said: "I think David has decided that the sheer stress and pressure of running a company that big would be too much."

His replacement has not been chosen, though it seems that Elisabeth Murdoch, 28, Murdoch's daughter, who is BSkyB's general manager of broadcasting, is destined for greater things. Chisholm is to be replaced by Mark Booth, the 40-year-old American who is chief operating officer of JSkyB, News Corp's satellite venture in Japan.

The tributes to Chisholm and Chance were endless yesterday, but it was the market that paid them the greatest compliment. BSkyB shares fell 2½, to 566½ p, an indication that

investors fear the company's growth momentum cannot be sustained in their absence.

While there is no doubt that Chance will resurrect in a top TV or entertainment job in Britain or America after a good rest, Chisholm plans to take it easy. He has a resort home and a ranch in Australia and has literally millions of pounds to spend. He earned £4.7 million last year and has shares worth another £5 million simmering in the executive bonus scheme.

Chisholm is not a rags-to-riches story. His father was a prosperous New Zealand farm owner who sent his son to King's College in Auckland, one of the few schools in the country that charged a fee.

His first career was hardly thrilling — he became a salesman for Johnson's Wax — but Ronda, his bride, a former Miss New Zealand, added a touch of glamour to his life. A natural salesman, Chisholm joined Channel 9 in Melbourne, where he sold advertising

ing, at age 24 and worked his way up the ladder. He reached managing director but left in the late 1980s after Alan Bond bought the network. Murdoch, impressed by his record at Channel 9, lured him to Britain to face the greatest challenge of his career.

Chisholm's job was to merge Sky with BSB at a time when the companies were collectively losing £14 million a week. The sceptics outnumbered the optimists and the pushy foreigner was given little chance of succeeding. Through relentless pushing, cost-cutting and deal making, BSkyB was able to break even in 1992. Buying the rights to Hollywood films and sports coverage, notably the rights to live FA Premiership football coverage, made BSkyB the most successful new broadcaster since the war. Sam created the template for other satellite broadcasters around the world," Luard said.

BSkyB now has more than six million customers and a market capitalisation of £10 billion, which makes it larger than News Corp itself. Chisholm once joked that BSkyB should buy News Corp. He never let his ego get as big as his company. "At the end of the day, I am just another employee like everyone else," he said.



ANTHONY HARRIS

## Why Brown will outface the angry bulls

G

ordon Brown's City honeymoon appears to be over.

Bank management of interest rates was welcome the

new monetary policy committee

is impressive;

his

Mansion House speech was

eloquent.

Even the substitution

of an inflation target for

the previous inflation ceiling

has gone down quite well.

But now he is preparing his

first Budget,

and looks

that he is not planning

to take just another nibble at

Norman Lamont's advance

corporation tax cherry (for it

was Lamont who in 1993

first reduced the value of the

ACT clawback to pension

schemes).

No — he is going

to swallow it whole.

No tax privilege at all? If

so down goes the value of

company pension funds

and out go the tax advantages

of City-run pension

schemes.

No wonder that

the FTSE is falling at about 1

per cent a day (and will fall

by about 10 per cent in the

end, on learned estimates).

What a dreadful man, after

all. If Brown were running

for City sainthood, Green-

span style, he might have

second thoughts. But it

seems likelier that he rather

enjoys the outrage (which

should improve his standing

with old Labour); and as

seen from the Treasury, his

plan has some solid merits.

Beyond the short-term,

and in any case questionable,

gain in corporation tax revenue, asset price inflation

has already been checked,

no doubt to the relief of the

Bank of England. If the end

of Miras checks house prices

too, so much the better.

Some actuaries have argued

that it is all a waste of time

companies will divert all the

money the Treasury hopes

to collect into their depleted

pension funds. On most esti-

mates, this is a gross over-

statement. There may be a

pause in company tax pay-

ments, but the long-term

revenue gains are sure —

and Brown is a man for the

long term.

There could be two imme-

diate gains that have not

been much noticed: cheaper

government funding and

some fall in over-valued

sterling. This might be de-

ployed by some in the City,

but not by the Bank, which

sees sterling as a dilemma.

A

dd it all together — a

certain long-term

gain in tax revenue,

of perhaps £6 billion at

current values; a likely

(though marginal) relief for

sterling; and a possible stim-

ulus to private saving, and it

begins to look irresistible.

And that is before you enjoy

the music of fat cats wailing.

No body of men, after all,

deserves much less charity

than the professional fund

managers, who — thanks

to their tax privileges —

have been enjoying enormous

rewards for what has been,

on average, lousy perfor-

mance. Will only able

managers get fat in future?

That would be the icing on

the cake.

# American workplace is being paralysed by fear of litigation

**E**xuse factory must serve as warning for Britain says Tunku Varadarajan



American offices, paranoid at the best of times, as exemplified by the film *Working Girl*, now find themselves in the grip of employee power

**A**nyone who was flabbergasted by the recent House of Lords ruling in *Malik v BCCI* — in which two former employees of the fraud-riddled bank were allowed to claim compensation from the liquidators for the "stigma" that is now alleged to hamper their rehiring by other employers — should read a riveting new book from America called *The Excuse Factory*.

It will soon dawn on the reader, no more than perhaps a dozen or so pages into this 378-page effort, that Britain is still far, far away from the litigious looniness that reigns in the United States. We should breathe a sigh of relief while we can. Let the book serve as a warning of the way things might become if this country were to drop its guard.

The author, Michael Olson, a senior fellow at New York's Manhattan Institute, has shown what is wrong — and why — with the American workplace. Mr Olson's thesis, in a nutshell, is that "employment law is paralysing the American workplace".

His book, written in the best traditions of reformist polemic, is studded with one bewildering real-life case after another, each showing how the law has turned every employee into a potential plaintiff to "shake one's boss by the ankles until coins roll out".

What exactly is Mr Olson talking about? Consider this example from the front page of *The Washington Post* of April 8: "In January, a former truck driver for Ryder Systems Inc won a \$5.5 million jury verdict after claiming, under the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, that Ryder unfairly removed him from his

position after he suffered an epileptic seizure, saying his health condition could be a safety hazard. During the time he was blocked from his job at Ryder, the driver was hired by another firm, had a seizure behind the wheel and crashed into a tree."

There are other egregious examples, all stemming from what Mr Olson calls the law's "venture into freelance social reconstruction". In October 1993 Northwest Airlines announced that it had agreed to accommodate the cast-iron "entitlement" that it is today, either side could end the employer-employee relation on short notice, "much as we are free to stop dealing with a tradesman if we grow dissatisfied with his service". The courts, however, now "dictate that a working relationship be continued indefinitely against one side's

problem with alcohol. Lawsuits over employment references have led to the collapse of the job reference system in numerous industries and professions. So fearful are firms of being sued for "defamation" or "conscious indifference" that references are merely chronological catalogues an employee's time at a firm.

As the body of law designed to "accommodate the disadvantaged" in the American workplace grows larger, virtually every decision made by employers has become the subject of a potential lawsuit. American jurisprudence now recognises, to all intents and purposes, a "new right to sue".

**B**efore employment became the cast-iron "entitlement" that it is today, either side could end the employer-employee relation on short notice, "much as we are free to stop dealing with a tradesman if we grow dissatisfied with his service". The courts, however, now "dictate that a working relationship be continued indefinitely against one side's

will". And since the days of slavery are over, that side is always the employer. In America today, there is effectively "no right to sack someone you would rather not have working for you".

Mr Olson draws an intriguing comparison between employment and matrimony. Whereas once the law required people to show good cause before they could get out of a marriage, leaving employment to the free will of the parties, the situation is now completely inverted. If a dispute arises at home, the parties are allowed to make "a fresh start"; if it arises at the workplace, the employer "may have to stick it out forever".

The author also wishes for a return to the days when workplace disputes were resolved through union negotiations. There was then a greater sense of proportion, as well as an understanding of the true nature of the employment. Today's "negotiators", lamentably, are the lawyers who encourage employees to sue, grab it and run.

A lawyer's guide on the

will become one of them immediately. But expect such an elevation before too long.

**L**ORD HARRIS of Peckham's other job as Tory Party treasurer comes to an end this week. This born salesman could not resist plugging his leadership candidate yesterday: "I'm a Hague man, but 100 per cent back in Carperight." Somehow



**THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE**





## ■ FILM

The new British movies succeed best when they aim to please local audiences first



## ■ RISING STAR

Andrew Howard's break came when he starred in the BBC's "Welsh Western" series, *Drovers' Gold*



## ■ DANCE

Pina Bausch's monumental production of *The Rite of Spring* is revived in Paris



## ■ POP

Currently voguish Midlands band Spiritualized take time to hit their stride at the Astoria

# Cinderella goes to the bonus ball

Thanks to the lottery, but also to a new confidence in its own powers, British film is on the up again. Carol Allen reports

**T**he success of films such as *The English Patient* and *Sense and Sensibility*, featuring English stories and talent but financed with American money, raises the question of what a British movie really is. If you are applying for lottery funds, there are clearly defined rules regarding where the investment is coming from and where the film is actually made. But film is not just about money. Movies are also about reflecting a nation's culture, attitudes and way of life.

This is how David Aukin, films supremo at Channel 4, which wholly or partly finances about 20 films a year, defines a British film: "I think it helps if it's made in this country, but that's not the only definition. I don't think that whether the money comes from abroad necessarily determines a film's Britishness. You look at the talent and the story and how it's told. That's what's so exciting about films such as *Secrets and Lies* and *Trainspotting*: they are films which reflect a specifically British society."

By that definition *Intimate Relations*, which opens on Friday, is a very British movie: a black comedy of adultery and murder set in English suburbs during the sexually repressed 1950s. The first-time writer/director Philip Goodhew remembers a 1960s childhood which was still dominated by the euphemisms and attitudes of the previous decade. "Although it is based on a true story which happened before I was born, I also wrote this from my own experience of living and being an English person," Goodhew says. "I didn't think of foreign markets. I didn't think of markets at all; I wanted to tell a story."

But the international appeal of the film was demonstrated by the battles among distributors to ac-

quire it when it was shown at the American Film Market. For years the problem has been to persuade a British audience to pay money to see a British film. But that is no longer the case, according to Aukin.

"An important film which marked the change was *Shallow Grave*, the first British film for many years to recoup its costs entirely within the UK," Aukin explains. "It told film-makers that there was a British audience and it told British audiences that they could enjoy a British movie. *Brassed Off* was another example of a film which British audiences found for themselves. The American industry first makes films for its own audience and only secondly for the rest of the world. Then, if the rest of the world is also delighted by them, that's a terrific bonus. That's the way to make movies."

Simon Perry, director of British Screen Finance (the partially government-funded film investment body), has noticed a rise in the standard of the projects he is offered, which he attributes to an increased confidence in the film business. "Things are really buzzing in London, Glasgow, Belfast," he says. "When people feel that what they write or want to produce has a good chance of finding a big audience, they work at their best. There's a lot of proof now that it can happen. British films which might have been considered unmakeable ten years ago are going out and conquering the world."

Last year was a boom time, with 123 films being completed, compared with 73 the previous year. The advance buzz on many is good: Gary Oldman's *Nil By Mouth*, for which Kathy Burke won the Best Actress prize at Cannes; Michael Winterbottom's Bosnian drama, *Welcome to Sarajevo*; Hanif

Kureishi's tale of Islamic fundamentalism in Bradford, *My Son the Fanatic*; and Judi Dench and John Brown in *Mrs Brown* are all tipped for success. *Wilde*, starring Stephen Fry as Oscar Wilde, is from the same team that made *Tom and Viv*, and promises to repeat that film's commercial and artistic success with its marriage of good-looking costume drama to an intelligent contemporary perspective on its subject.

But raising the finance is still no picnic. Goodhew admits that luck played a big role in getting *Intimate Relations* to the screen. He sent his script to Julie Walters, whom he had never met; she liked it so much she committed to the lead role on the spot. That captured the interest of Handmade Films, which was just being relaunched after a Canadian takeover and was looking for good projects.

Sources of finance are opening

out, though. The BBC and other television companies are now investing in films, and sources overseas are increasingly willing to put up finance. "Ten years ago the classic way to make a film was with Channel 4, British Screen and an American presale," Perry says. "Now producers go all over the world. One factor is the lottery money, which means we've got real money to bring to the table."

Critics of the idea of using lottery money to finance movies cite turkeys such as *Crime Time* and *True Blue* as reasons for this being a misuse of public funds. But of the 55 films which up until last February had received lottery funds, directly or via the Greenlight Fund for larger-budget projects, only a handful have so far been released. Lottery beneficiaries on the way include *Wilde*, David Leland's *Land Girls*, and *Keep the Aspidistra Flying*, which

the producer Peter Shaw admits could not have been made without the lottery, despite good international distribution deals.

Details of how the recently awarded lottery franchises will operate are still to be worked out.

Despite criticisms that the money went to companies which already had the wherewithal to raise finance, Perry sees it as a practical step towards building a true British film industry. "What we are need are major companies based in Europe on the Hollywood pattern, financing, developing, producing, distributing."

Ultimately, whether film gets made is down to the determination of the individual. Wannabe filmmakers will find some handy tips in Graham Jones's recently published book, *Talking Pictures*. He compiled it two years ago for his final year project at film school by picking the brains of independent film-makers as diverse as Andrew McDonald (*Trainspotting*), Jeremy

Bolt (*Shopping*) and Sam Taylor (*The Young Poisoner's Handbook*), asking basic questions such as "How did you get your first film off the ground?"

Armed with that knowledge, Jones then went back to his native Ireland to make his first feature film, a heist movie for young people called *How to Cheat in the Leaving Certificate*, in which the exam questions play the role normally reserved for diamonds or dollars.

"The most important thing I learn from all those interviews was that you've just got to do it," he says. "There's a huge number of people who put films in the pipeline, and only a small number of them end up making their movie. That's because they lack the energy. You have to be like a train, saying 'nothing is going to stop me', and then you've got to go for it."

● *Intimate Relations* opens on Friday. *Graham Jones's Talking Pictures* is published by the British Film Institute



Christopher Ecclestone, Kerry Fox and Ewan McGregor in *Shallow Grave*, the first British film in ages to recoup its costs in the UK alone

## GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

ANDREW HOWARD



Age: 27.  
Presently appearing: As Aaron, the juve lead in the Welsh western *Drovers' Gold* on BBC1 on Fridays.

Fun or what? "It was boyhood dream-type stuff. You were in love, fighting, going through bar-room windows. It's not a big budget movie so you're not allowed ten takes. People are looking at their watches. But there's something so enjoyable about it that you forget all that."

Where did the acting bug come from? "I used to bunk off school and sit in the movies on my own in the afternoons. One film I saw that really made me feel I could do acting was *Mona Lisa*. It had that grimy British quality that I recognised. The acting was superb."

How did he get started? "I left school at 16 and got involved with a theatre troupe that trained actors on tour. Through that I got my first audition for a Devon company called Orchard. That was my real grounding with lots of classical and modern plays and devised stuff. I love the immediacy of theatre. It's just a high form of showing off. That was the only thing I showed any aptitude for in school."

Is being Welsh a help or a hindrance? "At the moment it's a help. Over the past 20 years, even two years ago, it was a hindrance because Welsh characters were so stereotyped. But there's a crowd of us up here in London and there have been two Welsh plays recently, one of which I was in [Cardiff East by Peter Gill at the Cottesloe]."

What's next? "I'm a jobbing actor again. Last time I was unemployed, I co-wrote a screenplay which was bought by a company in New York. So I still scribble."

Where would he be now if he hadn't acted? "I don't know. I suppose I'd be thinking."

W. STEPHEN GILBERT

# Making the dark earth move

DANCE: An epic revival of the *Rite of Spring* in Paris



Primitive and unpretty: dancers of the Paris Opera Ballet in Pina Bausch's *Rite of Spring*

being reduced to their rawest animal state, a herd impelled by biological determinism and robbed of free will. Their movement is brute and consulsive: you can hear their panting exhaustion, you watch them become grubby with soil. They are magnificent.

The women stand hunched and shuddery, near naked in flimsy beige shifts which they draw up with childish, ungainly modesty. They are gripped by terror because they know one of them will be the sacrificial victim to mark the end of winter — the Chosen One who dances to the death. The red dress she will wear is passed among them, a rag both fearful and fascinating. They huddle together for comfort, then disintegrate into

panic-stricken scurries as destiny stirs under the surface. And when a woman is chosen (Aurélie Dupont) by the male leader, the music briefly unleashes the colossal power of its drums, like the cracking of the Russian ice in spring. It signals the release of pent-up sexual longing, the men and women flying like shards into each other's arms.

What makes Bausch's *Rite* so extraordinary is the balance between visceral realism and intervals of vivid, orchestrated geometry: the phanoxes of unison dance, the circle of

dancers revolving with stately vastness to the music's slow section, like the cycle of the seasons, like life. And then there are Bausch's emotional images: the crowd waiting before the victim-like spectators at a bullfight; the girl's frozen terror as she is forced to walk by the man, who pushes her, half holding her up, her feet resisting hopelessly against the loose soil.

Meanwhile, Bausch's own company is in Paris at the Théâtre de la Ville, showing *Nur Du* (Only You); her newest piece. Created last year for an American tour, it pays homage to American popular music of the Fifties and Sixties.

The cast perform Bausch's usual mix of sketches, gags and dance: Dominique Mercy appears in drag as an ageing film star. The evening, though, is diffuse and lacks originality. At three hours long, plus interval, it seems tired; but even Bausch must be allowed her honourable failures.

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**CHOICE 1**  
The oboist Nicholas Daniel plays music by Bach, Fauré and Saint-Saëns.  
**VENUE:** Tonight at 6pm, Wigmore Hall



**CHOICE 2**  
Curtain up on a new staging of Chekhov's early *The Wood Demon*.  
**VENUE:** At the Playhouse Theatre

## THE TIMES ARTS

**CHOICE 3**  
An exhibition of mountain paintings goes on show in the Lake District.  
**VENUE:** At the Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal



**OPERA**  
Has East Anglia blown its year in the cultural limelight? The reviews are mixed so far.

**LONDON**  
**BADINAGE** The period instrument ensemble offers an evening of music by Bach, Vivaldi, Handel and Corelli, among others. **VENUE:** Wigmore Hall, 261 Wigmore St, W1 (0171-934 2423). Tonight, 7.30pm.

**OBOE AND PIANO** This evening's much-hyped concert at 6pm is given by Nicholas Daniel, oboe, and Julius Drake, piano. The programme begins with Debussy's *La Mer*, followed by Chostakov's *Saint-Saëns' Le Cygne* and Faure's *Pèse*. *Ballade of the Black Swan* by Villa-Lobos, Herbert Howells's *Six Songs* and Brahms's *Von Eins zu Acht*. **VENUE:** Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St (0171-934 2141). Tonight, 6pm and 8pm.

**THE WOOD DEMON** The Playhouse becomes a production company for Anthony Clark's staging of Chekhov's early play. The director has solved the Victorian secret: Willy Collier's detective mystery about the theft of a sacred Hindu diamond. **VENUE:** The Playhouse, 100 New Bond St (0171-580 5229). Tonight, 7.45pm. Then Tues-Sat, 7.45pm, Sat June 28, 8pm. Until July 5.

**EDINBURGH** Scottish Opera's current season ends with a double bill. This evening, and on Friday, Rebecca Evans sings the rôle of Landlady in *Der Rosenkavalier*. Tomorrow and Saturday, Mark Ledingham and David Seaton sing the title roles in *Saint-Saëns's Samson et Dalila*. **VENUE:** Edinburgh Festival Hall (0131-225 5229). 6pm Wed-Sat, 7.15pm.

**KENDAL** Sublime inspiration, an exhibition tracing developments in mountain painting over the past 20 years, opens today. Turner's Waterman Lake and the first painting by John Ruskin from the Tate, join paintings by John Ruskin and works from the Alps Club, which is also lending examples of

**TODAY'S CHOICE**  
A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

### ELSEWHERE

**CHELTENHAM** Best Boxes Theatre Company presents *The Merchant*, the Victorian secret: Willy Collier's detective mystery about the theft of a sacred Hindu diamond. **VENUE:** The Playhouse, 100 New Bond St (0171-580 5229). Tonight, 7.45pm. Then Tues-Sat, 7.45pm. Until July 5.

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**THEATRE GUIDE**  
Jeremy Kingstone's assessment of theatre showing in London

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# Bridging the credibility gap

The estate agent of the year hopes to restore faith in a tarnished profession, says

Eve-Ann Prentice

**T**he image of the money-grabbing yuppie estate agent preying on buyers and sellers in the 1980s has become so embedded in the popular psyche that agents still command little respect among the public.

Tales abound of agents who wasted time and money misleading potential clients, taking them to view rabbit-hutch dwellings beneath motorway flyovers when they specified somewhere quiet, or of garden-loving families who have been sent to view a one-bedroom penthouse flat.

But now that the housing market is off the critical list, the profession is eager to give itself a healthier image.

According to one poll taken in 1990, during the worst of the property slump, estate agents were deemed the laziest of 13 professions, cared the least, and came second only to politicians as least deserving of their salaries and respect in the community.

Now one man has been chosen to represent all that is good and caring about the profession. Stephen Burns, from Bury, Lancashire, has been voted estate agent of the year.

In a contest organised by the National Association of Estate Agents and Nationwide Building Society, Mr Burns and his company, Stephen Burns & Co, were selected best independent residential sales office after nominations by his clients and secret signs by pretend-customers.

More than 18,000 people nominated estate agents nationwide in the competition, and 52 finalists gathered in London last month to hear the results.

Awards also went to JHK Homes Ltd of Muswell Hill, London, for best management and lettings office, and to Slater Hogg & Howison, based in Ayr, Scotland, for best corporate residential sales office.

So what is the secret of Mr Burns's success? "In the boom years, people sold out for an easy buck," he says. "Now it is hard



"We don't look at people as a fee," says the award winner, Stephen Burns. "We work seven days a week and I want the work to be seen as interesting and fun."

work and new regulations, such as tougher trade descriptions rules, have tightened the profession."

Mr Burns, 30, joined the Army after leaving school and, unsure of what to do after that, became a corporate estate agent. He set up Stephen Burns & Co 15 months ago.

"I decided to run things on a low-volume, high-quality basis," he says. "We charge a bit more than some, 2 per cent commission, but most of our clients seem to appreciate the service we give. As well as being nominated for this award, we do get thank-you

We charge a bit more than some, but most of our clients seem to appreciate the service we give

cards. We don't look at people as a fee. We work seven days a week and I want the work to be seen as interesting and fun. I have no time for hobbies as I am usually at work until 9pm or 10pm." He and his wife, Jackie, a DSS training officer, have two young children and hope to have a

holiday "some time next year". Mr Burns's tips for choosing a good estate agent include visiting the office at the weekend when the boss is more likely to be away to see how well the operation is staffed and run.

"If there are three phones ringing and only one member of

staff present, the chances are that you will be ignored later and that there will be little follow-up on your behalf," he says. "Presentation is important; beware of shabby signboards and offices."

The estate agency competition has been running for five years and this year's contest attracted twice as many nominations as last year. Mr Burns is delighted about his award but knows that estate agents still have a long way to go before they win the public round. Even dentists are held in higher esteem.

"The perception is that we will run up and take your wallet," he

says. "We have to make people relax by building up trust."

Mike Lazenby of Nationwide Building Society, which sponsored the awards for estate agents, says: "There is no doubt that estate agents have had a chequered history, but the fact that we had twice as many people recommending an agent for awards this year seems to show that they are working harder for their clients."

"Mystery shoppers" who posed as clients to test the finalists belonged, said Mr Lazenby, to an unnamed outside company "with a very strict brief".

## THE TEST OF A TOP ESTATE AGENT

### Attention to detail takes prize

HAVING recently survived the trauma of selling and buying a home, I was well equipped to test the award-winning efficiency of Stephen Burns & Co in Bury, Lancashire. On the pretext of relocating from London, I set out to discover what made the company estate agent of the year.

Estate agents must be most conscious of the truth that there is never a second chance to make a good first impression. Rarely can housebuyers held such a strong hand as they do at present. In my experience, the only true test of an estate agent's merit is to go through the entire process of both selling and buying a property. It is the former, not the latter, which genuinely sorts the wheat from the chaff.

But not having a house to sell in Bury, I had no choice but to resort to the first-impression test: telephoning a number of agents in the area to make a comparison. The first was a non-starter. They did not even answer the telephone, and there was no answering service either. Maybe it is unduly impatient to expect the phone to be picked up within ten rings, but such is the mark of the consumer age.

The next was better on the telephone answering front, but too high pressure on the sales pitch. Knowing almost nothing about me, apart from how much money I had to spend, the saleswoman opined that she had the perfect house for my requirements. The third was less pressured, in fact almost too laidback, possibly detecting something in my voice that indicated I was not a serious buyer. Hurriedly, she took my name and address. However, when details of the properties arrived in the post, this agency had one of the few houses I would have been interested in viewing.

Finally, I tried Stephen Burns. He was busy on the telephone and, as with all the others, a woman dealt with my inquiry. Without doubt, she was the most efficient and systematic of them all. Her attention to detail was impressive — how many bedrooms did we need, should the house be modern or on the older side, how many reception rooms, did I want a separate dining room, did I have a property to sell? And not only did all the properties she sent fit the stated needs precisely, they were below the minimum price level I had set.

RUTH GLEDHILL

## Your obedient servant

**R**emember the slicked-back hair? The red braces, mobile phones that doubled as cod-pieces, Golf GTIs, and those terrible braying voices? Remember the rapacious young men who talked like used-car salesmen and behaved like pimps? Well, they're gone. Gone with the Eighties.

The recession has killed them off. The survivors who made it to the Nineties are those that evolved, Darwinian style, into a smarter, more caring, species — more *The Admirable Chrichton* than Gordon Gecko of *Wall Street*. Because, to paraphrase Mr Forsyte, in today's market it's service, service, service.

As any estate agent will tell you, the market has shrunk since the Eighties. Confusion over leasehold reform, negative equity, and a new-found caution among mortgage lenders hasn't helped. But the most serious problem is the shortage of properties for sale. Estate agencies have to compete with each other now — unimaginable nine years ago when sales seemed to happen by themselves. To secure an



Competing in a shrinking market, estate agents have become better informed and anxious to please

instruction an agent must offer something more than the other 47 firms operating in the area. To keep it, the agent must be omnipresent at every stage of the sale.

John Woosley, who manages the branch of John Hollingsworth, says: "Preparation is all now. In this market there are no second

chances. When the deal is set, it should go like a torpedo firing from a submarine. In practical terms that has meant a total revolution of our selling methods. Apart from a basic understanding of human psychology, the most important skill is knowledge."

"It's not enough for an agent to act as a broker any more, he

must also be a property adviser. He has to know the legal, financial, and construction aspects of the property business as well as he knows his market values."

In other words, the Nineties agent must know his flying freehold from his leasehold, his fixed from his flexi-mortgage. Some building societies will not lend on conversions. Others have a policy against properties with more than five storeys, or which are set above commercial premises. If the estate agent does not know where the buyer can obtain the right mortgage, the chances are he'll lose the sale and the vendor will take his property elsewhere.

Rebecca Read, head of London sales at Cluttons, which offers a complete package to clients, is blunt: "There is no room in this business for people with low IQs."

Mr Woosley says: "The changes have been good. It has sorted out the men from the boys, and those of us who love the business are still here."

AMANDA FOREMAN

### Own your own wishing well

A NEWLY refurbished house in St John Street, Clerkenwell, central London, has come on the market with its own private open well in the basement. It has been designed as an art gallery on the ground floor and basement. Residential accommodation, including a studio with a glazed roof, is on the three upper floors.

Clerkenwell derives its name from the Clerks Well, which is at the junction of Clerkenwell Green and Farringdon Lane, and dates from the 12th century.

Despite the drought, the agent, Hurford Salvi Carr, says that the water level of the well is clearly visible.

A nationwide survey by Pilkington UK, the glass company, shows that more men than women are influenced by an attractive interior. 81 per cent of men questioned said that the interior of a property could sway their decision to buy, compared with only 73 per cent of women.

Now that the Glyndebourne opera season has started, opera lovers might be



Grade II cottage, Glynde £140,000

years. Winning horses that have been sent out from the yards include Doublé, Athens Wood, Touching Wood and Tingle Creek.

With nearly four acres, the properties have direct access to the Sevills, which, in turn, lead to the gallops of Warren Hill. The property as a whole, with two houses, a cottage and 94 boxes, has a price guide of £1.4 million.

An 18th-century folly near Haslemere in Surrey, built in the style of a romantic castle, is available to rent from Hamptons for £10,000 a month. The Deer Tower at Shillingstone Park is set in 120 acres of gardens and parkland. The rooms are linked by a spiral staircase in one of its four towers.

In an attempt to solve the problem of limited accommodation, 80 students in York are living in housing over shops in the historic centre of the city as part of a collaboration between the York-based Living Over The Shop (LOTS) and the University of York.

Two training yards have come on to the market in Newmarket. Suffolk, Windsor Clive International and Bidwells are selling Hurworth House and Green Lodge.

The owners are retiring and the properties have been run as one for many

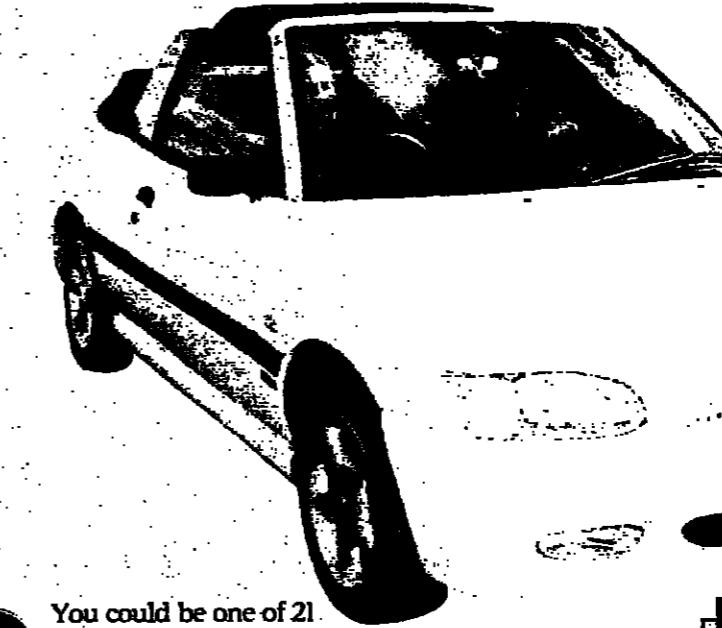
developments.

### IN THE MARKET

### AN EXCLUSIVE PRIZE DRAW

THE TIMES

21 CARS TO BE WON  
DRIVE AWAY IN A  
BRAND NEW FORD



You could be one of 21 readers who will drive off in a new top-of-the-range

Ford in the biggest and best car promotion ever.

The Times prize draw celebrates 21 years of Ford as Britain's favourite car manufacturer by giving you the chance to win one of 21 cars. Included in the many prizes is the Escort Ghia Cabriolet with an on the road price of £16,945. The Escort is Britain's bestselling car and this model has everything that has made the marque so popular: fast and fun to drive, body colour bumpers, electronic ABS, alloy wheels and low profile tyres plus, with the hood down, an immense amount of style.

HOW TO ENTER You need 10 tokens from *The Times* or five from *The Sunday Times* and one from *The Sunday Times*, or two from *The Sunday Times*. All tokens must be differently numbered.

The third *Sunday Times* token appeared on Sunday. You can enter as many times as you wish but each entry must be on an official

Ford prize draw entry form. Terms and conditions appeared in

*The Times* on June 2. The final entry form will be published in

*The Times* on Saturday. Full details of where to send your entries and tokens are printed on the entry forms.

Ford 21 years as the nation's favourite Thanks!

TO FIND OUT ABOUT FORD'S 21 ANNIVERSARY OFFERS CALL 0345 21 11 21

### WHAT HAPPENED IN 1992



FORD announce

the Mondeo

(above)

and Escort RS

Cosworth

● Marlene Dietrich,

the singer who

became a Forces

sweetheart, died

● The first digital mobile phone was authorised for sale

● David Platt became the most expensive football player when he went to Juventus for £8 million

### FORD'S 21 YEARS



TOKEN 15

CHANGING TIMES



THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

CREME DE LA CREME

0171 7827

CMS Asset Management Ltd

## ROOM AT THE TOP

Frontline PA

£28,000 package

## HODGE

**Marketing Assistant****City £18,000 + bens**

A new and exciting opportunity has arisen within a leading Chartered Accountants' for a candidate who has at least one year's experience within a Marketing environment. This constantly expanding department offers scope for development and it would be preferable if the successful candidate with the City Office. This is a very administrative role covering a variety of tasks and requiring complete involvement. In return, you must have solid experience and an enthusiastic and flexible personality. A good education is essential, as are confident system skills. Call our City Office.

TEL: 0171 332 0995 ♦ FAX: 0171 332 0996

## CONTINENTAL FLAIR

**Trading Floor Secretary £25,000 Package**

A major European Investment Bank has a vacancy for a senior secretary to work on their trading floor. Working for the Head of Derivatives and his comopolitan team in providing full secretarial support, your responsibilities will include the co-ordination of complex travel and diary arrangements, taking a role in the weekly management meetings and controlling all back-up administration. A lively, outgoing, team-oriented personality and an ability to thrive on pressure will be necessary to succeed in this hectic and rewarding environment.

Committed to equal opportunities

0171 814 0800

Angela Mortimer

**PA TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE £27,000 P.A.**

Charming Chief Executive of world famous blue chip plc based in Victoria seeks top level career PA with similar or board level experience. Top PA role with 75% organisational responsibility including lots of ever changing travel itineraries. World class polished, well spoken and smart professional who wants lots of involvement. 100 shorthand, 60 typing + Windows. Please call 0171 637 3212

**CHAIRMAN'S PA £25000**

Small WCI Diamond Brokers need a committed, efficient PA for a demanding 1:1 role including extensive client liaison at the highest level. Previous Chairman level experience + shorthand essential.

TEL: 0171 404 7314 Fax: 0171 404 7399

**SENIOR SECRETARIES £18 - 22,000**

Renowned city firm offering excellent benefits + staff development are looking for several experienced secretaries to join their thriving company at Partner Level. 60+psm Microsoft Office essential.

TEL: 0171 404 7314 Fax: 0171 404 7399

**B.J. CRAWFORD'S**

**TO ALL DTP TEMP SECS - ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING INTERESTING AND INVOLVING /LONG OR SHORT TERM?**  
We have two 3 month bookings in the City. We have any of the following packages available, Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm, London, East, West, or Cheshire; we would love to hear from you. Also a 6 month booking on Weekend 9-5 - must have experience on trading frs. Please call Clare Riddell at:

BJ Crawford's (Rec Coas)

0171 935 9692

**WPA/ABDO SECRETARY**

Required for two surveys in a City based firm. Excellent audio/typing skills required together with solid knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel.

The ideal candidate should be well organised, punctual, have a sound knowledge of English, go without pressure and be able to work under pressure and meet deadlines in a timely manner.

Salary: AAE

Please send your CV with covering letter stating current salary to:

Merry Stoddart

45 London EC2R

London EC2N 7AJ  
(strictly no agencies)

Secretary

**Salary £16,626 - £17,897 per annum****(Subject to Job Evaluation)**

This is a short term contract available until September 30, 1997 (renewable annually thereafter, subject to availability of funds)

The American Embassy requires a Secretary/PA to work in the U.S. Office at The European Bank for Reconstruction & Development (EBRD) located in the City. This position requires excellent secretarial and drafting skills in addition to a flair for office administration, preparation of reports and maintenance of data bases and filing systems.

The successful applicant will:

- Have completed Secondary Education, preferably with 2 GCSE 'A' Levels in academic subjects one of which should be English
- Have 2 years experience as a professional secretary
- A minimum of 40 wpm in Typing
- Be experienced in organising & supporting business briefings and seminars
- Be computer literate and proficient in the use of Microsoft Word & Excel

Please apply in writing stating why you believe you are suitable for the position, together with a full CV detailing current salary and a day time telephone number to:

The Personnel Office 97/28, American Embassy, 24 Grosvenor Square, London W1A 1AE Closing Date: 1st July, 1997 at 5pm

If you do not hear from us by July 31st, 1997 please consider that your application has been unsuccessful. Only those applicants who meet the criteria stipulated above will be considered for this position. The successful applicant will be required to go through an Embassy security investigation prior to appointment.

The American Embassy  
is an Equal Opportunity Employer

## HODGE

**Team Secretary****City £18,000 + bens**

Prestigious Finance and Corporate PR Consultancy is looking to recruit a Senior Secretary. Working for an Account Director and two managers you will part of a team in this 'hands on' role. Liasing with medical and scientific organisations, you will possess excellent communication skills and have the ability to work in a busy, pressurised office. Organising press releases, diary/travel arrangements and maintaining databases, a sound knowledge of Word for Windows and PowerPoint is essential. Excellent opportunity for career progression. Call our City Office.

TEL: 0171 332 0995 ♦ FAX: 0171 332 0996

## GLOBAL INFLUENCE

**£22,000 Package**

This globe-trotting Senior Executive is looking for a prospective PA to be his eyes and ears back in London. Working in tourism promotion and dealing with senior people both in commerce and government, you will need extensive cultural awareness and a desire to make things happen. You will work as part of a busy team getting involved in project and strategic work. With an excellent telephone manner and a flexible approach to your work, you will be ready for your first director role and have knowledge of Microsoft Office. Shorthand would be useful. Please call Angela Mortimer plc.

Committed to equal opportunities

0171 287 7788

Angela Mortimer

**THE BEST IN TOWN! RECEPTIONIST £25,000 p.m.+**

Corporate Head Office of large worldwide blue chip plc. seeks an elegant, very well spoken and totally committed Professional Receptionist. Only the very best should apply. Previous solid relevant experience in a similar environment would suit. Meridian switchboard + keyboard skills needed. Age to 45 max.

Please call 0171 637 3212

**BACK A WINNER - THE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER! COMPETITIVE PACKAGES AT ALL LEVELS**

If you have 80wpm shorthand and want brilliant benefits, with regular hours - we have lots of exciting vacancies, at all levels, in a variety of prestigious international City and West End companies. Feeling stultified and bored in your job? Well we don't have to be anymore! Let us be your passport to a new and exciting future. Interested?

Call Comma for some objective careers advice.

**TEAM SECRETARIES WITH A DIFFERENCE! £12-£20K**

Due to expansion this Holloway/Covent Garden firm are recruiting bright, young secretaries for a variety of busy divisions. You must be smart, able to work under pressure and to deadlines but, most important of all, enjoy a hectic social life! If you enjoy variety, a young environment (mainly male) and crazy evenings in the wine bar, call Anna NOW!

**PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT****SALES EXECUTIVE REQUIRES A PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

The person will be numerate, fluent, have excellent word-processing skills and a good telephone manner. They will be educated to a high level and be self-motivated. Attention to detail essential. Salary negotiable.

Please send CV to: Compa, Abbey Life Assurance Co Ltd, 2nd Floor, 84 Baker Street, London W1M 1SL. No agencies. Tel: 0171 925 7740

COURSE ADMINISTRATOR

Consultant Paediatricians Club seeks to appoint staff to run the established courses and develop new ones. Also to establish editorial services and book production.

CVs to: 100 Paediatricians Club

School, 2nd Floor, 100 Newgate Street, London EC1R 4HU (no agencies)

Entrepreneurs and those with Vision and Initiative only please apply. Good communication skills essential

**PA to Commercial Director**

Bateman Healthcare Services provides Hotel Services to the Healthcare Sector and is one of the fastest growing companies within the Compass Group.

As part of this growth, we are now seeking a PA to the Commercial Director. With a minimum of 2 years' experience, you'll need to be proficient in Microsoft Office and have a typing speed of at least 60wpm.

Salary will be in the region of £16,000 - £18,000 depending on experience.

In the first instance, please send a full CV with covering letter to: Mrs Jane Reid, Bateman Healthcare Services, Queen's Wharf, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 9RJ.

NO AGENCIES PLEASE



PA/Secretary required by Financial Director and Financial Controller of Rapidly Expanding Quoted Leisure Company

Salary c£20,000

Commercially aware preferably with financial background, excellent organisation and communication skills.

Flexibility and a willingness to take on a variety of responsibilities is required.

The successful candidate will be confident with their shorthand and have up to the minute MS Office systems experience.

Send CV with current salary details and expectations to Claire Yarlett, Assistant Company Secretary, Regent Inns plc, 10 Ely Place, London EC1N 5RY.

If you do not hear from us by July 31st, 1997 please consider that your application has been unsuccessful. Only those applicants who meet the criteria stipulated above will be considered for this position. The successful applicant will be required to go through an Embassy security investigation prior to appointment.

The American Embassy  
is an Equal Opportunity Employer

The highly regarded Head of Information Technology for one of the world's leading International Investment banks has recently recruited from New York and requires an experienced Personal Assistant to provide secretarial support. This role demands exceptional organisational and interpersonal skills to manage the bank's extensive network of offices and branches, which are situated across the globe.

and attends to arrange complex travel itineraries

and liaise with senior level contacts. As a

business assistant, you will be given considerable autonomy and responsibility to take a proactive role in the success of the bank's Information Department.

Flexibility is required due to frequent

international travel and the need to work

extensively with clients and partners.

An exciting opportunity for a highly professional

secretary to join this prestigious City based

company. The role involves extensive client contact,

therefore a high level of presentation and

communication skills are vital. Providing secretarial and support to a Partner and small team of Consultants, arranging meetings, travel and itineraries, and using Excel and PowerPoint for presentations and drafts. Excellent benefits and career opportunities for the successful candidate. Audio/copy typing 65wpm essential.

Call our City Office.

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Call our City

Telephone:  
0171 680 6806

# Crème de la Crème

## EXECUTIVE SEARCH £22,000

Fantastic opportunity to join this young, dynamic company as PA to the Group Managing Director. Become involved in the executive search process with lots of client liaison. Suit a highly organised, pro-active individual.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

**Elizabeth Hunt**

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## VICTORIA £23,000

+ Gym membership. You will be based in the superb offices of this international company that really values its staff. You will be encouraged to use your initiative in this true PA role. 52wpm shorthand / 55wpm typing.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

**Elizabeth Hunt**

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## WINE MERCHANTS £20,000

An ambitious PA required to assist the Sales Director of this well known wine company. A busy role for an intelligent secretary used to a fast paced environment. French useful. W4W, Excel, 50wpm typing.

Please telephone 0171 495 2321.

**Elizabeth Hunt**

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## WEST END TEMPS Secretaries and Receptionists

• Top hourly rates, loyalty & cross training bonus and paid onto the bank holidays.

• Immediate short and long term assignments matched to your individual experience and skills.

For more information please telephone Jo, Sophie, Jane & Astrid on 0171 499 8070

**Elizabeth Hunt**

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Fax:  
0171 782 7586

## HR GALORE

£15,000 - £20,000

We have several permanent, temp to perm and contract positions working in HR for a leading blue chip company. Previous experience in Personnel is essential (min 6 mths). Administrators, secretarial and full HR assistant roles available.

Please telephone on 0171 628 9529

**Elizabeth Hunt**

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## CITY TEMPS

### Secretaries and Receptionists

- Top hourly rates, loyalty & cross training bonus and paid onto the bank holidays.
- Immediate short and long term assignments matched to your individual experience and skills.

For more information please telephone Katrina, Alan, Dawn & Harriet on 0171 638 9991

**Elizabeth Hunt**

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

## Aldrich & Company

### HR ADMINISTRATOR £20-24,000 + BANK BENS

A fabulous opportunity to work in a very professional HR division for a top int'l investment bank. Total support (1-1), taking a proactive approach you will be totally involved, liaising with the line, Head Hunters etc. Dealing with all related admin. A wide role, fun and challenging - requiring 100% energy! Call Emily Aldrich

CITY RECRUITMENT  
Tel: 0171 588 8999 FAX: 0171 588 8998

**EMP SPECIALISTS**  
Our prestigious corporate clients, based in the City require top quality experienced receptionists for a minimum of 1 year contract. You will be providing high levels of customer service, and will require 1 year senior level receptionist experience and basic key board skills. If you are well presented with excellent interpersonal skills, please contact Hazel Steele on 0171 408 0424. E-mail: Appointments@info@teal.co.uk Web: http://www.teal.co.uk

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Working for a prestigious City firm of insurance underwriters providing secretarial support to the Managing Director

There is a high level of client contact and other duties including arranging travel and preparing presentations using an Office Package which includes Excel and Microsoft.

Salary range £16,000-£20,000 depending on age and experience.

To apply telephone the recruitment consultants handling this assignment on 0171-512 1888 (fax 0171-512-0456) or write to Executive Prospects 30 Marsh Wall E14 8PY. Quote reference EPL 7486

**Executive** Projects limited 0171 512 1888

## WORKING WONDERS RECRUITMENT LTD 29-31 VILLIERS STREET, LONDON WC2 TELEPHONE 0171 930 9080 FAX 0171 839 0815 TEMP CENTRE FAX 0171 930 7788

**Personnel Admin Jewellers W1**  
This vacancy is to provide full administrative support to the Personnel Manager. Duties include referencing, dealing with starters and leavers and also holiday and sickness. Must have previous Personnel. Salary £19,500 STL & Pension G75.

**Secretary Investments W1**  
A secretary with shorthand of 100 wpm is required for this well known company. Duties include typing of correspondence, travel arrangements, diary management and lots more. The ideal candidate would be very well spoken and well presented. Salary £20,000 STL & Pension S209.

## DIVISION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HEALTH

**Unflappable?**

**Capable?**

**Responsible?**

**Enthusiastic?**

**Imaginative?**

**Intelligent?**

Then you may be just the person to be PA to our Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Salary c £18K

If you have good personal computer and organisational skills, and would enjoy working in a busy but friendly environment, with lots of doctors, medical students and medical scientists then send us an A4 SAE quoting ref: T/0B/G/SS/199 to the UMDS Personnel Department, Medical School Office, St Thomas Hospital, London SE1 7EH for a job description and application procedure.

Closing date 30th June 1997

**Don't forget the beautiful views over the Thames from our gardens, and there's also a gym on site!**

**PR AGENCY - PA TO MD**  
Excellent opportunity for a PA to join a fun buzzing office. Typing, diary, research, project management. Must have excellent secretarial skills. £16,000+.

**ADVERTISING AGENCY - PA/EVENTS ORGANISER**  
Large, well known company. 30% PA work, 70% corporate event organisation. Must have 50wpm typing and a confident outgoing personality. £16,000+.

**MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY - TEAM SECRETARY**  
Must have at least one year's secretarial experience. General admin, typing, telephone. Must have 50wpm typing and good audio typing. £15,000.

Please fax CVs to Juliette Wood  
47 New Bond St, London W1V 8HA  
Tel: 0171-493 8824 Fax: 0171-493 7161  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

**UMDS**  
GIFT & STETHOSCOPE  
MEDICAL & DENTAL SCHOOL  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Equality of Opportunity is School Policy Promoting excellence in teaching, learning & research

RECRUITMENT

COMPANY

## £20,000 Exc Bens Personnel

An exciting opportunity to join this leading multinationals in a role which will combine both secretarial & administrative responsibilities. You will provide full secretarial support to the Director as well as assisting the compensation & benefits manager in a purely administrative capacity. This is a fast-moving, dynamic department which requires a confident, proactive secretarial/administrator who is able to work independently as well as being part of a team. 60+ typing MS Office.

## RECRUITMENT

0171-831-1220 5 GARRICK STREET WC2E 9AR

## Judy Farquharson Ltd.

### OPERA & BALLET to £22,000

Our client, the Royal Opera House, is looking for an Appeals Co-ordinator/PA to help with the smooth running of a very hectic Fundraising Department. Reporting to the Head of Fundraising you will need to be a meticulous organiser with excellent written and oral communication skills, a good eye for detail and the maturity to work with VIPs & artists alike. Shorthand and good WP skills are essential in this role, as is a good sense of humour and a genuine interest in the Arts. Initially a 12 month contract based in Central London.

Please fax CVs to Martine Dwyers  
47 New Bond St, London W1V 8HA  
Tel: 0171-493 8824 Fax: 0171-493 7161  
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

**JFL**

## RECRUITMENT

0171-831-1220 5 GARRICK STREET WC2E 9AR

## PUBLICATIONS ASSISTANT

Famous Learned Society needs PA/Administrator to assist publications Director. Liaison with Authors & Editors. Some research and involvement in all publishing projects. c. £16,000.

**COVENT GARDEN BUREAU**  
8 MADDOX STREET LONDON W1  
0171 495 8322

## FA - CHELSA

£24,000

French & Spanish with good telephone skills & PA. Team Player with happy personality. Friendly co.

Mrs Prosser

0171 259 6999

BEAUCHAMP

BUREAU

## FATO FINANCE DIRECTOR

£19,000-£21,000

Colleagues on Warwick, Previews

multi-level easy & good IT skills + ab

excellent. Email prosp...

Mrs Prosser

0171 259 6977

BEAUCHAMP

BUREAU

## PARTNER APPLEMAC SEC

£23,000 + bens

Holiday opening chairman

multi-level easy & good IT skills + ab

excellent. Email prosp...

Mrs Prosser

0171 437 3793

Val Wade Rec Co

0171 437 3793

## S.O.S!

Are you a PA/David Sec/PA

or Admin for Temp or Part

time? If so call 0171 365 8482 for a fresh, friendly, confident team

approach to Recruitment.

## BOX NO. ....

C/o The Times

Newspaper P.O. BOX 3363,

Virginia Street, London E1 9GA

## SECRETARY

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

JULY 10 1997

Telephone:  
0171 680 6806**1 : 1 PA Roles  
x 3**

To £23,000 + MS + Bens

I presently have 3 excellent opportunities for PAs who are looking for involvement. These include working for the IT Director of a large investment house to supporting a young Director within Corporate Finance within a leading City Bank. All roles will require MS Office experience, shorthand skills and confident personalities.

Please contact *Miranda Marks*.JOSEPH WHIN & CO LTD,  
FINANCIAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS  
No.1 NEW STREET, LONDON EC2M 4TP  
TEL: 0171 623 1266 FAX: 0171 626 5259

INTERPERSONNEL

**JOSLIN ROWE**

secretarial recruitment consultants

**SENIOR PA**

c£20,000 + Bens

CITY

A well established Lloyds Syndicate is looking for a senior and experienced PA to support their Senior Underwriter. This is a true "PA" role as you will be using your tact and discretion to offer a professional service to both clients and colleagues. You will be out of the office on business trips abroad, preparing hoteling notes and dealing efficiently with typing and presentation work. Knowledge of the insurance industry and the professionalism to convey your correspondence is essential for this position. Good typing and presentation skills in Word and Excel are also important. This is a small and friendly office which puts great emphasis on team work and flexibility.

Joslin Rowe Associates Ltd  
Bell Court House

11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY

Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

**EXECUTIVE  
RECEPTIONISTS -  
29.50 - 10.50pm****6 MONTH - 1 YEAR CONTRACT**

Take it currently recruiting receptionists for a prestigious, Maybeline based company. You

will be working as part of their front of house and

confidence suite team. Some positions will need

fluent French. If you have excellent

communication skills and presentation at Hazel

Neale or Rachel Huggins at late Appointments

on 0171 408 0424 E-mail: info@late.co.uk

Web: http://www.late.co.uk

Tate  
TEMP SPECIALISTS

11 Blomfield Street, London EC2M 7AY

Telephone: 0171 588 7287 Facsimile: 0171 382 9417

INTERPERSONNEL

ADMINISTRATIVE  
CREWFASHION £15,000 in WI contracts  
Secretarial, Sales and Adminis-  
trative skills at City level. Tel 0171 257  
2044/464 2857 2819. Middleton  
Jeffers Rec Ltd.PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/ Adminis-  
trative skills for key holding agency. Res-  
ponsible and reliable. Must be able to work  
in WP & 3.5. Good communication  
skills. Full pay. £15,000. Tel 0171  
587777. No Agencies.

FIRST CREME

INTERPERSONNEL

Administrator / Typist  
Design & Advertising Agency  
Camden c. £12,000

We need a good communicator &amp; organiser to

work with clients and suppliers on a variety of  
tasks. Excellent keyboard skills are essential (PC  
or Apple Mac) as well as the ability to work on  
your own initiative. Previous agency experience  
an advantage.Call Sandra Wren  
on 0171 284 2002

INTERPERSONNEL

Bilingual PA required for small

professional City firm of Inde-  
pendent Financial Advisers. Must be fluent  
French & English. Good adminis-  
trative, organisational, sales &  
customer service skills. Good computer  
experience. Salary £15K +  
CV & 3 years in financial services  
or similar. Must be able to work  
flexibly. Tel 0171 256 2000. Tel  
0171 256 2000. Tel 0171 256 2000.

INTERPERSONNEL

EDITORS

French or Spanish mother

language. International experience

required to research, write and

edit newsletter for our new

international clients. 2 days per week. Exp. 2 years.  
Salary £22K

LRS (Asgy) 0171 287 0424

INTERPERSONNEL

Administrator/PA

Dutch/English

City-based, small, international office

needs a bilingual administrator/PA.

The job offers variety, responsibility and

direct contact with clients and will suit

someone aged 30-40 with advanced

computer skills (Word/Excel). Salary

negotiable. Please call Sabrina Stewart on

0171 390 7000.

PA with French

£21,000

Due to internal promotion, there's a

vacancy in a West End-based French

company for an experienced secretary

aged 25-30. Supporting a Head of Dept,

this is a great job organising events,

general admin, translation, 5

weeks holiday. 60wpm

typing, W4W/Excel/P-point

needed. Please call Sabrina

Stewart on 0171 390 7000.

INTERPERSONNEL

MIDDLETON JEFFERS

RECRUITMENT LIMITED

SECRETARY

Fluent Italian,

£18,000++

Fringhtons Swiss Investment Co based SW7 need

secretary with fluent Italian. Working within small team

financing with H/Q &amp; Worldwide Clients lots of admin

with basic accounting, total involvement within a varied

role. Typ 25wpm, Ampro, Excel &amp; accounts exp. Travel

abroad with flexible and responsible approach. Age 25-

40. Call Karen Hutchinson, 0171 256 6658.

INTERPERSONNEL

LOVE &amp; TATE

RECRUITMENT LIMITED

MAYFAIR PA

Sought opportunity to set up the London operation of

successful Dutch training company. You will be an experienced

secretary with office management skills able to set up systems and procedures. Basic book-keeping, W4W/Excel/German/German

and shorthand needed.

Tel 0171 287 2844 Fax 0171 287 3717

INTERPERSONNEL

MIDDLETON JEFFERS

RECRUITMENT LIMITED

LOVE &amp; TATE

RECRUITMENT LIMITED

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RACING: CECIL LAVISHES HIGH PRAISE ON HIS BRILLIANT WINNER OF PRINCE OF WALES'S STAKES

# Bosra Sham in a class of her own

By CHRIS MCGRATH

DE A meeting so floridly devoted to the way things look, Bosra Sham yesterday reminded the Royal Ascot throng that true class comes from within. The filly put up one of the great modern Ascot performances when routing her rivals for the Prince of Wales's Stakes by eight lengths and more.

Henry Cecil found himself describing Bosra Sham as the best horse he has ever trained. Though delivered in that determinedly casual drawl, it was a remarkable tribute, given that Cecil has trained



the winners of 19 classics, and this was his 61st success at the royal meeting.

Kieren Fallon produced Bosra Sham two furlongs out and, for a strange moment, time stood still for everyone else. The other five horses seemed to quiver as the odds-on favourite suddenly stretched several lengths clear; even when you realised Alhareth was still galloping, she was going further away.

"She is remarkable," Cecil said. "She has guts, she is a natural athlete, I think she is a true champion — and I think the public have decided that, too. She is the best horse I



Bosra Sham storms to an eight-length success in the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Royal Ascot yesterday

have ever trained. I hate saying it, because so many good horses have been such friends to me over the years. I never like judging them. But she is something else. Let's try to appreciate her, because we might not get another one like this for some time."

There is little danger of

Fallon, his smiling new stable jockey, failing to appreciate Bosra Sham, ridden last season by the studiously bleak Pat Eddery. Fallon is optimistic that she would stay a mile and a half, but she will stay at ten furlongs for her next race, in the Coral-Eclipse Stakes on July 5. Cecil and Wafic Said,

her owner, will then consider whether to step her up for the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes, back at Ascot, or drop down to a mile for the Sussex Stakes.

Those daring to take on Bosra Sham at Sandown may include Starborough, given a fine ride by Frankie Dettori to

win the St James's Palace Stakes, Desert King and Daylami, respective winners of the Irish 2,000 Guineas and the French equivalent, could not muster the pace to challenge as Starborough seized an early lead and quickened off the turn to hold Air Express by a length.

The dapper Cecil loves the finery of Ascot, but he will have returned last night to his prize roses at Warren Place, and reflected that you can't improve on nature.

Starborough was fourth in the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, but looked a better colt yesterday. The Newmarket-based David Lord, who trains him for Sheikh Mohammed, explained: "I always felt that he would be better going round a bend — it is a hell of a long way in a straight line at Newmarket — and anyway he has improved 7lb to 10lb since."

Lord had been keen to run Starborough in France this weekend, but the owner changed his mind for him. The sheikh must have considered it a good day's work, all told, as the Queen Anne Stakes had earlier fallen to Allied Forces, also ridden by Dettori — reviving the Godolphin cause after a season of unfamiliar disappointment.

But Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, was under no illusions. "We know we are not in contention for the championship this time, so we are going to move out a lot of the second XI older horses and concentrate on working with the younger horses towards next season. We have a nucleus of 75 two-year-olds, and 20 or 30 older horses will make way for some of them."

Aidan O'Brien, out of luck with Desert King, only had to wait another half-hour before saddling his first Flat winner in Britain, Harbour Master getting up to win the Coventry Stakes. Many expect this remarkable young Irishman one day to rival Cecil's achievements. He will be lucky, however, to train another

Desert King.

Starborough, in the move aimed at widening the appeal of the BBC's racing coverage, she introduces the afternoon programme, alongside Julian Wilson, presents the evening highlights and fronts the new daily *First Show* with Jim McGrath.

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## CRICKET

# England aiming to lift World Cup to new dimension

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CRICKET has travelled a vast distance, often across uncomfortable terrain, since England staged the first World Cup in 1975. Quite how far became plain at Lord's yesterday, when Disney World was unveiled as a future venue for international cricket and the 1999 World Cup was launched to a background of strident rock music in the Long Room.

One could almost imagine eyebrows being raised on the portraits adorning the noble *venue as the sacrifice took place below*. They would be raised still further over the figure of £40 million, a conservative forecast of revenue from the event before a single ticket is sold.

Money and evangelical zeal are behind the Disney project. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has agreed to help to establish a stadium in Orlando, Florida, with a view to staging triangular one-day series, the first in the autumn of 1998.

That was one clear development to emerge from an ICC meeting that agreed on a new corporate structure to aid swift

The 1999 tournament will begin, as it should, with a

decision-taking, but then delayed a verdict on a Test match world championship. There is goodwill behind the idea, though, and a high-powered sub-committee has been asked to report back by December.

The committee will also consider — and hopefully re-

ject — the proposal to stage the World Cup every two years rather than every four. Any doubt that this would diminish the event was dispelled yesterday when ambitious plans for the 1999 tournament, still two years distant, were released.

The presentation was a slick, modern affair. Pre-

empting a later remark by David Richards, the chief executive of the ICC, that "other sports are overtaking us at a rate of knots", it acknowledged the need for cricket to compete for the corporate dollar and for the young sporting audience. It also reassuringly addressed various areas in which the last World Cup fell short.

The 1999 tournament will begin, as it should, with a

match between hosts and

holders. England, abysmal failures in 1996, will play Sri Lanka, the unexpected champions, at Lord's. This compares favourably with a bizarre choice of opening match, between England and New Zealand, at Ahmedabad last February.

Two groups of six will operate on a round-robin system and the top three from each will proceed to a second round, from which the semi-finalists will emerge. This, too, is an improvement on the previous format.

Each of the 12 competing countries will be hosted by a county club during a fortnight of preparation. An itinerary of warm-up games, three per country, has already been finalised. Scotland will be hosted close to home, in Durham, before travelling to Worcester for their opening game, against Australia.

There will be no title sponsor for the tournament. Instead, the England and Wales Cricket Board, the organiser, is negotiating with "global partners" — eight companies each expected to put in around £2 million. The first two, Vodafone and NatWest bank, were named yesterday.

The kitz will be topped up by official suppliers, with tournament merchandise ranging from computer games to replica kit and hospitality packages. There are logos, mascots and a catchphrase — "It's not just cricket".

The last World Cup produced £12 million through television and England expect to do better. The challenge of those doing the deals, however, is to maximise their negotiating power while observing an undertaking that important national events will be widely available. The final, scheduled for Sunday, June 20, at Lord's, will be shared between satellite and terrestrial television, but other matches, including the semi-finals at Old Trafford and Edgbaston, will be sold exclusively.

Semi-finals

June 16: Team one v Team four (at Old Trafford)

June 17: Team two v Team three (at Edgbaston)

Final

June 20: at Lord's

## WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

Group A: England, India, Kenya, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe. Group B: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, New Zealand, Pakistan, Scotland, West Indies.

First round:

- May 14: England v Sri Lanka (at Lord's)
- May 15: Sri Lanka v South Africa (at Edgbaston)
- May 16: Australia v South Africa (at Headingley)
- May 17: Sri Lanka v Kenya (at Southampton)
- May 18: Australia v Scotland (at Worcester)
- May 19: West Indies v Pakistan (at Bristol)
- May 20: Australia v Bangladesh (at Old Trafford)
- May 21: England v Sri Lanka (at Canterbury)
- May 22: England v South Africa (at Headingley)
- May 23: Kenya v India (at Bristol)
- May 24: West Indies v New Zealand (at Cardiff)
- May 25: Australia v Scotland & Bangladesh (at Edinburgh)
- May 26: England v Zimbabwe (at Trent Bridge)
- May 27: Sri Lanka v India (at Teesside)
- May 28: West Indies v Scotland (at Chester-le-Street)
- May 29: New Zealand v Bangladesh (at Derby)

Semi-finals

- June 16: Team one v Team four (at Old Trafford)
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Final

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## LEGAL &amp; PUBLIC NOTICES

# Hick stranded at the crease

MICHAEL HENDERSON



## Line and Length

CAST your mind back to the Lord's Test and what comes up? It may be the first-day hundred by Inzamam-ul-Haq, the absurd dismissal of Ijaz Ahmed, bowled as he attempted to do the Gay Gordons, the defiance of Atherton and Stewart on the last day, or, more likely, the surrender to Mushtaq Ahmed that followed their departure.

It seems longer ago than it actually was, so different is the mood of the side today. Only Atherton, Stewart, Thorpe and Ealham remain from that XI, which goes to show how much England have reshaped their team in the past year.

Of the seven players who do not remain, there is no doubt who has fallen farthest. In time, the Test may be recalled as Graeme Hick's last for England. Yesterday, as the players gathered at Lord's, Hick was preparing to play for Worcestershire. Nothing is certain in life, wrote Benjamin Franklin, except death and taxes, but Hick's position looks even more remote.

The last time that he appeared in these columns, the piece was disinterred in a cricket magazine under the misleading headline: Flash hack flays Hick — the only correct thing about being "Hick". So let it be clear at the outset: I bear the man no malice. It is just that he was given more chances than any batsman to justify his place in the team — and, what is more, he jolly nearly did.

After he made a hundred at Pretoria in November 1995, which followed a century against West Indies at Nottingham, the winter of 1995-96 was supposed to have refreshed him. He said little about his plans, but David Houghton, the coach at Worcestershire and an old friend from Zimbabwe, could not keep quiet for more than a few days without



Hick contemplates his future and an international career clouded in uncertainty

telling the world that his man was ready to fill his boots. Last weekend, after the Bristol hundred, there was a volte-face. Hick had begun the season poorly, said Houghton, because there was a lot of daft talk about how many runs he was going to make.

It is no good saying that Hick is only 31 and that his best years lie ahead. His best years were in his early tens, before he had been exposed to the psychological rigours of Test cricket. He has been dropped five times by England since his debut in 1991, and has never recaptured the freedom that he enjoyed in those innocent, early days beside the Severn.

Graham Gooch gave Hick some encouraging advice earlier this year, saying that his own best years came after the age of 30. He may as well have compared bread with cheese. Gooch, different to Hick in every respect, is a

driven man, and, coming up to 44, he continues to drive himself. Not all careers, it should be stressed, develop at the same pace.

Hick, who comes across as a decent chap, will continue to plunder runs for Worcestershire, but those flaws of temperament, more than any perceived technical shortcomings, will always count against him. All the evidence that could possibly be needed to make a judgment is there. In fact, it was there long ago, as Atherton, who defended him for so long, might now admit (fat chance).

One reliable measure of a cricketer's worth is how he responds to failure. If any body doubts how strong a man and how good a cricketer Atherton is, as he goes past Peter May's record of 41 caps as captain, then consider why Hick is not there to salute him. As somebody or other once said, the readiness is all.

## Patel puts match practice to good use

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

**THE PARKS** (final day of three): Oxford University drew with Nottinghamshire

IF Nottinghamshire seriously planned to beat Oxford University for the first time in eight years, rather than opting for match-practice, their tactical aberration was batting on for 50 minutes in the morning. It enabled Tim Robinson, back after a month's absence with a broken hand, to complete a three-hour half-century, but the extension of the innings was counterproductive.

Ultimately, Oxford were challenged to make 367 to win in four hours plus 20 overs — 83 runs more than their previous highest total this summer. They took the bold route to an honourable draw, with half-centuries from James Fulton and Chetan Patel after three wickets had tumbled in 12 balls in mid-afternoon.

When Nottinghamshire abandoned their hopes of victory with nine overs still available, Patel had hit eight fours, reached his third fifty of the summer, raised his run aggregate to 360 at an average of almost 33 and justified Hampshire's faith in offering him a summer contract after the forthcoming University match. Fulton also excelled, frustrating the spin bowlers before being caught off bat and pad to provide one of James Hindson's four wickets for 97.

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**: First Innings: 324 for 4 dec (P. Pollard 11; Patel 76; G.F. Archer 50 not out). Second Innings: M.P. Downham b Patel ..... 13 R.T. Robinson not out ..... 51 N.A. Gooch c Byrne b Patel ..... 50 D.G. Houghton c Patel b Patel ..... 4 R.T. Benson c Scott to Averns ..... 4 J.E. Hindson not out ..... 6 Extras (b, 4, 6, 26, nb, 8) ..... 41 Total (4 wkt, dec) ..... 168 Fall of WICKETS: 1-23, 2-139, 3-140, 4-147. BOWLING: Averns 15-2-44-2; Patel 17-3-82-10; Byrne 5-1-20-0; Wagh 4-1-12-0.

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY**: First Innings 124 (J.E. Hindson 4 for 21). Second Innings: N.G. Pothier lbw b Frank ..... 0 B.W. Byrne lbw b Hindson ..... 0 C.G. Hough bowled b Hindson ..... 17 P.G. Morgan lbw b Patel ..... 0 J.A.G. Fulton c Gooch b Hindson ..... 51 P.J. Houghton not out ..... 51 Extras (nb, 2) ..... 51 Extras (b 7, 6, 3, nb, 2) ..... 12 Total (6 wkt) ..... 248 Fall of WICKETS: 1-0, 2-32, 3-43, 4-53, 5-61. BOWLING: Frank 11-2-23-1; Patel 8-2-25-2; Archer 3-0-15; Balkis 32-6-74; Hindson 34-8-97-4; Upperton, K.E. Palmer and P. Willey.

# Bradman captured on canvas

## EXTRA



## COVER

**SIR DONALD BRADMAN**, who will be 89 in August, said: "My objective has been to ensure the accuracy, quality and authenticity of this portrait, which will enable it to stand as an important facet of cricketing history from an artistic perspective. It was initiated as a reflection of my very high regard for the commitment and sporting skills of wheelchair athletes. Their focus on success is inspirational."

**Bradman's Walk to Glory** captures The Don going out to bat at Melbourne in 1937. In addition to the original, which will be unveiled by Colin Ingleby-Mackenzie, the president of MCC, 99 framed limited edition prints are available for sale at £9,000 apiece. All proceeds will go to charities: the Bradman Museum Trust and the Wheelchair

Cricketing Foundation.

**PEMBERTON & LAWTON**, THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 NOTICE TO DEBTORS: PLEASE ATTEND TO THIS OFFICE ON THE 21ST MAY 1997, between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm, to receive information concerning the reduction of the share capital of the company and the cancellation of the shares held in the name of the debenture holders. The notice is given under section 12(1)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986. The notice is given under section 12(1)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that the shareholders of the company will be entitled to receive a reduction of the share capital of the company and the cancellation of the shares held in the name of the debenture holders. The notice is given under section 12(1)(a) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that the shareholders of the company will be entitled to receive a reduction of the share capital of the company and the cancellation of the shares held in the name of the debenture holders. 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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

# Gray ponders return to sport's firing line

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

I JUST don't understand what's going off out there ... words that are part of the English sporting lore, words of Fred Trueman once again slaggering off a young English cricketer who is playing for his life and his future.

"And Bob Willis now knows he can never be a fast bowler." This was the line that prompted me to launch the concept of the Truemanism in my Saturday column — a Truemanism being a statement that is instantly contradicted by actual events. Willis, as I remember, went on to take five wickets in the session.

The joys of uninhibited, reckless criticism run very deep and so do the pleasures of praising one's own youth. Sport being so huge an industry now, any former player with a *pomme frite* on his shoulder can reach a decent audience (and often make a few quid) by slagging off present players.

Thus we have Fred Titmus having a pop at Michael Atherton, who sets a record tomorrow for Test matches as England captain. Useless, Titmus says, when compared with the man he beats, Peter May.

Then we have Geoffrey Boycott, who called Dominic Cork "a showpony and a prima donna with an attitude problem". This hurt, mainly because it is not without all truth. Cork's groin strain is a problem, but the thing that the poor boy has never recovered from is achieving a hat-trick in a Test match.

The former player turned media celebrity has become part of the sporting industry, in every sport. You would never get Brian Johnston and John Arlott leading *Test Match Special* these days.

## IN BRIEF

## World's top two give Evian class if not size

THE Evian Masters, which starts today at the Royal Club, Evian, overlooking Lake Geneva, is a golf event with limitations — a mere 66 competitors and no cut — but limitless class, not least because two of those competing are Annika Sorenstam and Laura Davies, the world's leading women players.

Sorenstam, now No 1, is making her first appearance in Europe this season, having won four times in the United States. She leads the money-list with nearly \$700,000 (£420,000). Last week she spent a few days at home in Sweden working with her coach and said: "He was a bit picky." Such attention to detail suits the meticulous Sorenstam, whereas it would drive Davies, the personification of *laisses faire*, to distraction. Davies, the world No 2, has also had a week at home, having won the Danish Open earlier this month, and likes this venue, having won the title in 1995 and 1996.

**Motor sport** Emmanuel Collard, of France, will drive for the Prost Formula One team during testing at Magny-Cours this week, heightening speculation that he will replace Olivier Panis, who suffered multiple fractures of his legs in a 120mph crash at the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal on Sunday. Collard, a former test driver for Williams, Benetton and Tyrrell, has been linked with a future role at the Prost team since the start of the season. Panis is not expected to race again this season.

**Squash**: A place in the final of the Al Ahram international championship, near Cairo, was the immediate reward for Peter Nicol, of Scotland, after he defeated Ahmed Barada, the local favourite, 14-15, 15-11, 15-12, 15-13. Nicol, 24, set up a meeting with Jansher Khan, the world champion and No 1 seed, from Pakistan. His reputation will have been enhanced by the calm and skilful manner in which he beat Barada, 19, one of the most rumbustious players to emerge on the international scene in recent years.

**Rowing**: The Amateur Rowing Association Council yesterday expressed reservations about recent recommendations by Fisa, the sports' international governing body, including the deletion of the "amateur rule" from international rowing, possibly from next September.

team of lacking fight. A former player with a high-profile media job, such as Gray, such as Boycott, is in a position to enjoy one of the greatest luxuries in life — power without responsibility.

Most players are content to set aside the life of strife when the time comes. A talent for communicating your game is not to be sneezed at, it is a pleasant life demanding enough not to be dull, but you know that neither a row of noughts nor a torn ligament can ever tear your life apart again.

Which leads us to the extraordinary phenomenon of Gray, reportedly on the edge of accepting the job of Everton manager. Surely nobody in his senses would leave a job as Sky Sports' top football man in exchange for the windswept wilderness of football management.

Already people are queuing up to say that Gray must be mad, stark staring bonkers, even to think of it. These people have not been professional athletes, or even members of the legion of former pros. They are not people in whom the love of strife burns extra deep.

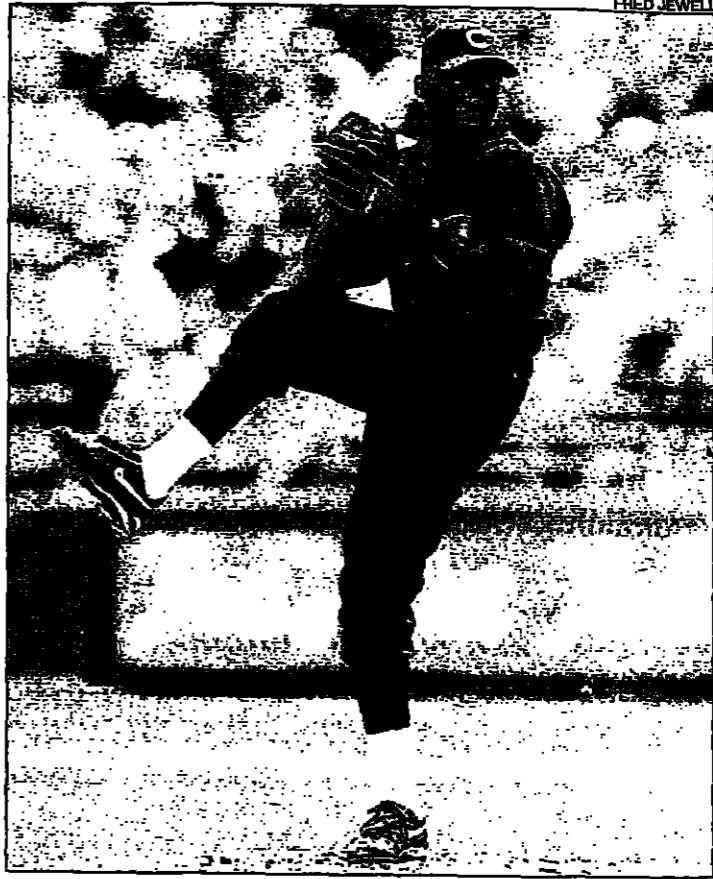
There is a sense in which the artist will always a little despite the critic, no matter how good; a sense in which the critic will always envy the artist, no matter how poor. For the fact of the matter is, when all is said and done, a critic is a eunuch in the harem.

Those who preach to Gray of the joys of a gelding's life of ease have a point, but Gray may yet reject the chance of lying forever by the still waters of television and get up the sharp end once again. If he does so, I salute him. He'd be mad to do it. A rather cheery kind of madness, on the whole.

Yours sincerely, Simon Barnes

## Chicago benefits from wind of change

Keith Blackmore sees two of baseball's oldest clubs battle for local supremacy after a hiatus of 91 years



Foster, of the Cubs, prepares to pitch during the first inning of the historic game between the two Chicago clubs on Monday

The rain that fell on the Chicago Bulls' basketball team's victory parade in Grant Park on Monday stopped just in time to allow the first competitive meeting of this city's baseball clubs for more than 90 years to go ahead. The change of weather could hardly have been more symbolic.

Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox have grown used to working in the giant shadows cast by Michael Jordan and his team, and the Bulls' latest celebrations, for their fifth National Basketball Association championship in seven years, seemed perfectly timed to obscure the most important baseball game in the city since 1906.

Success and the Chicago clubs have become strangers long since their last meeting, when the "hitless wonders" of the White Sox beat the Cubs 4-2 in the World Series. They have also become strangers to each other.

For two of the oldest teams in the sport, that short six-game series was the sum of their meaningful competition. The Cubs were founder members of the National League, the Sox among the creators of the American League. The peculiarities of the Major League system have always meant that teams from the different organisations could meet only by winning their own league and then representing it in the annual World Series.

In 1908, the Cubs actually won the Series, but it was the last time. They have been back since, most recently in 1945, but have never won and the club has become an affectionate metaphor for futile endeavour in American sport.

The White Sox won the Series again in 1917 and reached it once more in 1919, but then came the defining moment of the club's history. They lost to Cincinnati and subsequently eight of their players, including the legendary Shoeless Joe Jackson, were banned for life for allegedly fixing the result. A jury failed to convict any of the

That opportunity attracted more than 36,000 people to Comiskey Park, home of the White Sox, for the first three games. This was a real "subway series"; the respective homes of the two teams are separated only by a dozen stops on the Red Line of the Chicago Transit Authority.

For those Chicagoans who stared out on to the field and thought that they must be dreaming, there was another special effect. The Cubs were wearing the elegant, all-dark blue uniforms of their 1911 predecessors. The White Sox were clad in the simple white outfits of the 1917 World Series winners.

This time, the Cubs won 8-3, in a game filled with fielding heroics and free of errors. They took a big lead early, pummelling Jaime Navarro, the White Sox pitcher, for six runs in the first three innings, and then hung on as the White Sox tried to claw their way back.

For Mark Grace, the Cubs' first baseman, whose excellent personal contributions over the past nine years have not been matched by the performance of his team, it was a strange feeling. "We have all been saying it was just another game, but it wasn't," he said. "The fans made it much more exciting. I didn't think we would ever see it and I am proud to have taken part."

The crowd, in fact, may have been the biggest bonus. Early indications are that the inter-league experiment — in which every team plays 15 games against local rivals in the other league, the results to count in their respective divisional tables — has been a success. Attendances for the first games over the weekend were up almost 40 per cent on last year and that figure was likely to increase when the big attractions, such as the Chicago series and that between the New York Yankees and Mets, had been taken into account.

## Stewart on cue for Pinewood

MR D. Carter, of Beccles, Suffolk, wins the weekly prize for the interactive Team Cricket game.

Mr Carter's team, Pinewood 3, scored 2,327 points

last week, mainly due to

Alec Stewart's double century for Surrey, against

Yorkshire, and Paul

Strang's 11 wickets for

Kent, against Lancashire.



The prize this week is a print of David Gower, signed and framed, and a first edition of the PCA Year Book 97, signed by members of the Professional Cricketers' Association and two tickets to a Test match this summer.

PINEWOOD'S Alec Stewart (Surrey), G.P. Thorne (Lancashire), Steve Smith (GTA Lancashire), (Worcestershire), A.P. Grayson (Essex); J.P. Stephenson (Hampshire), All-rounders: A. Stebbing (Surrey), R. Gough (Nottinghamshire), Bowlers: G. Rose (Somerset), B.C. Hobbs (Surrey), G. Welch (Warwickshire).

## HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

EACH team, depending on when it registered, will be allocated a number of transfer allowances. If you register in May, you will be entitled to make transfers in June and July, to August, in September, May 21 and will remain open for the season.

Transfers must be made by telephone or fax. Transfers can be made freely and any transfers made in one transfer period will become effective for the matches which begin in the following transfer period.

Transfers are open on Wednesday May 21 and will remain open for the season.

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Twenty points are deducted for a duck.

All points scored in Test matches are doubled.

Source ECB/PA Cricket Record

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## TENNIS

# Progress of Lee stalled by strength of opponent

By RICHARD HOBSON

HIS record as a junior suggests that Martin Lee has the latent talent to become the next British player to break into the top fifty ranked players in the world. Whether he is able to emulate his form in under-18 competitions on the senior circuit, though, depends on his response to the setbacks that will inevitably befall him.

There was plenty to learn from his 6-1, 6-1 defeat by Karol Kucera in the first round of the Nottingham Open yesterday, but Lee, 19, suggested afterwards that he was able to digest the lessons. Quite simply, he was overpowered by Kucera, a stronger and fresher Slovakian. He won just seven points from as many games against his opponent's service in a match that lasted 38 minutes.

Lee had risen 18 places to No 382 in the latest world rankings after his success in reaching the third round in the Stella Artois tournament

Miles MacLagan, the Great Britain No 10, completed a 6-4, 6-3 win over Dan Lobb, his compatriot, yesterday in the Wimbledon qualifying tournament at Roehampton. However, Colin Beecher, the British No 11, lost 6-0, 6-3 to Guillermo Canas, of Argentina, while Colin Bennett succumbed 7-5, 6-3 to Peter Tramacchi, of Australia.

at Queen's Club, where he lost to Goran Ivanisevic, and in emerging through the qualifying stages to reach the main draw here. On Monday he played two doubles qualifying matches and, despite extensive work on his fitness before playing at Queen's, he believes that a few more hours in the gymnasium before Wimbledon next week will be time well spent.

"I spent the two weeks before Queen's in the gym, with virtually no tennis at all and that helped me enormously, but the match with Kucera showed that I still have to become more powerful to compete," Lee said. "Some of that will come naturally as I grow, so it is not a major problem. I will be working on improving my body strength, but not at the cost of overlooking weaknesses in my game."

"This has been a great week for me, but now there will be

pressure because people know a little bit more about me. It was difficult to come from the crowds at Queen's to the qualifying here, where there were two people watching, so I was pleased to come through."

Lee, a former world junior

No 1 in singles and doubles, will face Nuno Marques, the experienced Portuguese player, at Wimbledon, having been given a wild card.

Marques is ranked No 129 in the world, but has never progressed beyond the first round. "I have seen him play a couple of times and I am very, very happy with the draw," Lee said.

Kucera, his own fitness barely tested, will play Byron Black in the second round at Nottingham. Black beat Todd Woodbridge, the No 7 seed, in three sets, leaving the top quarter of the draw open after the defeat of Carlos Moyá, the No 1 seed, on Monday.

Talk of Wimbledon dominated play on the second day, particularly during a rain-enforced interruption of an hour. Daniel Nestor, like Lee a qualifier, discovered that he will be facing Tim Henman next week, and proceeded to lose 6-1, 7-6 to Grant Stanford, of South Africa. "I am not that confident in my singles play," Nestor said. "I am thinking too much about small technical things and that is making it worse. I have nothing to lose against Tim in his own country so I will just swing away and hope for the best."

Chris Wilkinson, rarely at his best, lost to Marc-Kevin Göltner, while Sandon Stolle earned a second round tie against Kenneth Carlsson, the conqueror of Marcelo Rios, when he overcame Arnaud Boetsch. Rios was merely the first seeded casualty of a tournament that is open in every sense. Jim Courier, the former world No 1, was taken to a third set by Johan van Herck and Gustavo Kuerten, the No 3 seed, hardly exuded confidence going into his tie against Greg Rusedski — which was justified when Rusedski, the British No 2, breezed through the first set, winning it 6-1 in 18 minutes.

Kuerten, the French Open champion and a beaten finalist in Bologna last weekend, announced that he will give a press conference in Hurghada on Saturday — finals day in Nottingham.

Ranked No 79 in the world, a rise of 125 places since



Williams, to the rattle of beads in her hair, drives a forehand during her win yesterday

## Williams makes her mark

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

BEING a Jehovah's Witness, Venus Williams does not celebrate birthdays, but she marked her 17th yesterday with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Chanda Rubin, her American compatriot, advanced to the second round of the Direct Line championships at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne. Not bad for only her fourth competitive game on grass.

There are not many grass courts in Compton, in Los Angeles, where she grew up, nor even in Florida, where her family now lives, and she chose to play through the qualifiers in order to familiarise herself with the surface. It seems to have been successful.

"I suppose so," she said when asked if she now regards herself as a grass-court player. "I need to come to the net a little more. I never serve and volley that much; it really will help my game. Last time I played Chanda, she annihilated me. I knew I had to be more aggressive and I think the surface helped me a lot, too."

Rubin, ranked No 20 and a finalist here two years ago, attracted less attention, despite her own recovery from a hand injury, but did not mind talking about her conqueror. "She hasn't played a lot of

tournaments, but everyone knows her, although they are still curious to see how she plays," she said. "As long as she is playing well, it's fitting that all the attention is on her. It's an interesting story."

Williams herself was visibly more comfortable discussing clothes than tennis. The silver-grey outfit that she sported may give Wimbledon officials heart failure, but they will be relieved to know that it also comes in white. The BBC sound crews could experience problems with the noise of her beaded locks. Opponents will have the service, a venomous two-handed backhand and a variety of other potential winning shot to think about.

Elsewhere, the only seed to fall was Mary Joe Fernandez, beaten by Natalie Tauziat, who defeated Rubin in the 1995 final. Shirlie-Ann Siddall, the British No 2, lost in three sets to Ai Sugiyama, of Japan, while Jo Ward, the British qualifier, ranked No 353 in the world, failed to set up a second-round meeting with Monica Seles after losing 6-2, 7-5 to Naoko Sawamatsu.

It was not plain sailing. She was broken twice in the first set and once in the second, although broke back immediately on both occasions. "She served OK against me, which is her strength," Rubin said, "but not great."

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# I believe you, George. Thousands wouldn't

I am having a spot of bother with my so-called peer group. Believing them that is, I mean. William Hague must be lying about his age, that's obvious. But what about George Clooney, the silver-tongued, twinkly-eyed star of *ER* who is soon to play Batman? On last night's *Film 97* with Barry Norman (BBC1) he just casually dropped the fact that he was 35 into the conversation four times.

Four times? Methinks he doth protest too much.

Yes sir, 35 was the age to be, gurgled the much-older-looking Clooney in that dark brown voice that would get most 35-year-olds laughing at if they tried it. It was the perfect age to play the leading man; it meant you still had "great television hair" (not in Hague's case, but then he says he's 36) and you get to snog Michelle Pfeiffer. Norman shifted uneasily in his chair, as he does every time La

Pfeiffer is mentioned, and made a token effort to change the subject.

"Financially, do you actually still need to work?" Clooney thought not. "Hey, at 35 that's a great position to be in." Thank you, George, I think we got the message.

Presumably because this was *Film 97*, there was only token mention of *ER*, the television series that turned Clooney into a star. There was a brief clip of Dr Ross (Clooney) doing something clever with a hypodermic but no mention of the kiss that brought the series to an arrest-inducing close a fortnight ago. I am not convinced that Norman even knows who Nurse Hathaway is.

Instead we had all sorts of clips from films that I hadn't seen. This was partly because some have not come out yet, partly because I don't go to the cinema any more well, if you watched television all day, would you go to the cinema for

fun? and partly because when I did still go, Clooney was making films such as *Return of the Killer Tomatoes*.

I tried to do as much bad television as possible so that other people didn't have to do it," he explained, showing that all those months at the Hugh Grant school of self-effacement had not been wasted. Acting ability counted for very little when it came to casting; it was presence that counted. "You are selling confidence — that's what people want to buy." It had, he admitted to Norman, taken him some years to realise that. But now, at 35... oh, please.

Nomarking the age Kevin Whately is supposed to be in *The Broker's Man* (BBC1). He's that age old enough to have partied company with both his wife and mistress, but young enough to nurse the hope of winning one or the other back. Old

enough to have two teenage children, but young enough to be working so hard that he hardly gets to see them. I think we can say we are on familiar ground.

Like every other actor who has left *Peak Practice*, Whately has clearly had enough of playing nice. But instead of going to Cambridge to play Dr Sam something, the renowned whatisit, he opted for Jimmy Griffin, a former detective

turned insurance investigator. His job is to stop the insurance companies having to pay out (something I thought they were very good at anyway) either by recovering the "stolen" goods or by proving a claim is not legitimate. Had that chef really lost his sense of taste and smell? I'm not sure I could bear the suspense.

Actually, the insurance side of things was not too bad. The chef and his fastebuds were just a comic subplot, the main story concerned the violent theft of a container-load of digital cassettes. Now the thieves were offering to sell them back to the insurance company for a great deal less than their insured value ... unless Griffin could stop them. Lots of electric guitar music indicated that this was exciting — and it was, moderately.

The problem was Griffin himself. He is not so much nasty as dull, and has a tiresome habit of

climbing on to ethical high horses when it is far from clear that they are his to climb on. "I'm not signing this off," he said fiercely. Given that his fee was £12 grand and the insurers were already a million down, I am not convinced that it was his call. But then, as I don't really know what "signing off" signifies, perhaps I should wait for part two before finally making up my mind. First impressions, however, are that Whately will have to be at his very best to turn this one into a winner.

Over on Channel 4, someone had come up with the promising idea of examining the sibling bond in *My Sister*. Unfortunately, after an encouraging opening few minutes when a small assortment of people waxed emotional about their sisters, that promising idea got lost. Perhaps that was inevitable. We all, after all, have different stories to tell.

Annie Paul, the director, chose to concentrate on just three, a decision which ensured that by the end we knew a great deal about the people involved, but which made it difficult to come up with generalisations. Furthermore, Paul had died at the extremes of her subject — the elder sister who became a surrogate mother to her younger brother and sisters while their parents' marriage broke down; the sisters estranged by the death of one parent and then brought back together 20 years later by the death of the other, and the woman still mourning the death of her sister more than 30 years ago.

By the end, I knew a great deal about what happened to these families but next to nothing about the powerful forces that still bind them together. Perhaps some things, such as sibling bonds and George Clooney's age, are best left a mystery.

## BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (33079)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (38437)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (5595692)
- 9.20 Cheggers' Challenge A romantic meal for two (341476)
- 9.45 Kirby (T) (998939)
- 10.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (73437)
- 11.00 News (T) and weather (2029925)
- 11.05 The Great Escape Hammamet in Tunisia (7957418)
- 11.35 Royal Ascot Preview of today's meeting (434632)
- 12.00 News (T) and weather (1589050)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (5798654)
- 12.35 Neighbours (T) (4552470)
- 1.00 News (T) and weather (33316)
- 1.30 Regional News and weather (15616741)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (36811760)
- 1.45 Royal Ascot Coverage of the 2.30 Jersey Stakes, 3.05 Queen Mary Stakes and 3.45 Coronation Stakes. Plus: fashions. Continues on BBC2 (41119234)
- 4.00 Poppeys (5589483) 4.10 Gadget Boy (9671586) 4.35 Out of Tune (T) (T) (6474050) 5.00 Newsround (T) (858963) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (7226166)
- 5.35 Neighbours (T) (T) (836873)
- 6.00 News (T) and weather (857)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazine (437)
- 7.00 Antiques Roadshow In 1992, Simon Bull valued a chronometer from the German flea scuttled at Scapa Flow while in Okinawa. Here, he discusses the history of the ship's clock (T) (1470)
- 7.30 Tomorrow's World Howard Stabelford and Shahnaz Pakravan round off the series with a review of the year's reports (T) (321)
- 8.00 The National Lottery Live (T) (235383)
- 8.15 Firefighters On Merseyside, White Watch tackle a bedroom blaze started by an over-inquisitive five-year-old, before dealing with a mound of burning rubbish in an alleyway (T) (129844)
- 8.50 Points of View (T) (583470)
- 9.00 News (T) and weather (8505)
- 9.28 National Lottery Update (786166)
- 9.30 Backup: Presence A fight at a local pub triggers a spate of burglaries on a tough housing estate where the team are running a community policing project, and the finger of suspicion quickly falls on a notorious local family (T) (709215)
- 10.25 An Inside Story Special: Gold Rush Gold Exploring the role played by Switzerland during the Second World War (T) (9442437)
- 11.40 Royal Ascot The second day's highlights (448437)
- 12.00 The Babe (1992) Biopic of baseball legend George "Babe" Ruth with John Goodman as the larger-than-life character, notorious for his over-indulgence in food, drink and women, yet famed for his status as a sportsman. Also with Kelly McGillis, Trini Alvarado and Bruce Boxleitner. Directed by Arthur Hiller (T) (612242) WALES: 12.00 Welsh Questions (76548) 12.30pm Film: The Babe (251267) 2.20 News (2814797)
- 1.50 Weather (5642529)

## BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: The Birth of Calculus (3183302) 6.25 Sequences (3102437) 6.50 Beating the Morning Rush (7103166)
- 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (T) and signing (1812147)
- 7.55 Active (T) (4875694) 8.20 Christopher Crocodile (T) (8927798) 8.25 Johnson and Friends (1389673) 8.35 The Record (2579418)
- 9.00 A Passion for Angling (T) (3178708) 9.50 Don't Be an Anorak (T) (671857) 10.00 Telephones (T) (5985554)
- 10.35 Death of a Scoundrel (1958, b/w) A charismatic Czech refugee ingratiate himself with wealthy women. With George Sanders and Zsa Zsa Gabor. Directed by Charles Martin (1960/2166)
- 12.30pm Working Lunch (82673) 1.00 Johnson and Friends (1025333)
- 1.10 Adam's Rib (1949, b/w) George Cukor's classic war-of-the-sexes comedy with Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn (6319012)
- 2.50 News (T) (2315079) 2.55 Westminster (9018895) 3.55 News (T) (3887641)
- 4.00 Royal Ascot The Royal Hunt Cup over the Old Mile at 4.20 (2546037)
- 4.40 Take a Meal With (4340321) 4.55 Esther: Over-suntanning (T) (503789) 5.30 Today's the Day (7203215)
- 6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (T) (671470)
- 6.45 Candide Singer of the World (803302)
- 7.30 Amity Attack The Street of Doom Account of how residents of a Northampton street became convinced that environmental factors were damaging their health when five children developed leukaemia, despite scientists' assurances that the so-called cluster was simply a chance in a million (T) (963)
- 8.00 Call My Bluff (T) (T) (8760)
- 8.30 Yes, Prime Minister Jim has his first encounter with the Foreign Office (T) (T) (7895)
- Tenzing and Hillary (9.00pm)
- 9.00 Reputations: Hillary and Tenzing: Everest and After (T) (3789)
- 10.00 International Athletics Highlights from tonight's Grand Prix meeting in Helsinki (56760)
- 10.30 Newsnight with Kirsty Wark (T) (181215) 11.15 Trial by Jury (3/3) (409383)
- 11.55 Weather (548654)
- 12.00 The Midnight Hour (67890)
- 12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: Acid Fields (60365) 1.30 Magnetic Fields in Space (64364) 2.00 Nightschool TV: Science (38155) 4.00 BBC Focus: English Heritage (29123) 4.30 Unicef in the Classroom (22890) 5.00 Basic Skills: A Different Way of Doing Things (51782) 5.30-6.00 Voluntary Matters: Managing People (75819)

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• For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

## SKY 1

- 6.00am Morning Glory (820827) 8.00 Page and Katie Lee (86050) 10.00 Another World (51228) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (86052) 12.00 The Oprah Whitney Show (86052) 12.30 The Open Whitney Show (86052) 1.00 Jerry Jones (54365) 4.00 The Oprah Whitney Show (86052) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (86052) 6.00 Real TV (5195) 6.30 The Sun (86052) 7.00 The Sun (86052) 7.30 Star Trek: The Next Generation (86052) 7.30 The Lucy Show (86172) 12.30pm L.A.P.D. (85153) 1.00 Hot Mix (2849374)

## SKY 2

- 7.00pm Superboy (4785147) 7.30 Superboy (822147) 8.00 The Underworld (8545741) 8.30 The Underworld (8545742) 11.00 Late Show with David Letterman (720418) 12.00 10.00 Hot Mix (2449374)

## SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

## SKY MOVIES

- 6.00am Status of Change (1994) (27169) 8.00 Head's Way Home (1995) (19673) 9.30 First Knight (1995) (19674) 11.45 The Devil's Own (1997) (19675) 12.30 The Siege (1998) (202902) 1.30pm Memories of Me (1988) (20165) 3.30 Rita Hayworth: The Love Goddess (1993) (22344) 5.00 Heck's Way Home (1995) (19676) 6.30 The Devil's Own (1997) (19677) 7.00 Virtual Desire (1995) (21705) 12.40pm Never Say Never (The Darling Hall Story) (1995) (20343) 2.15 Garbo Tales (1994) (74221) 4.00 Circumstances Unknown (1995) (42707)

## THE MOVIE CHANNEL

- 6.00am Moonlight (1994) (225892) 7.25 The Colour Story (1943) (554473) 8.40 Scarface (1932) 9.40 The Winning Post: Live Horse Racing (4692132) 10.00 The Winning Post: Live Horse Racing (4692132) 10.30-11.30 Tennis: Nottingham Open (8601048)

## EUROSPORT

- 7.30am Le Mans 24 Hour (22470) 8.30 Cycling: Tour of Switzerland (90741) 9.00 Tour de France: Le Mans (1995) 10.00 Football: Euro 96 (1996) 11.00 Wheelchair Basketball: European Masters (1995) 11.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 12.00 Tour de France: Paris-Nice (1995) 12.30 Wheelchair Basketball: European Masters (1995) 12.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 13.00 Tour de France: Paris-Nice (1995) 14.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 14.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 15.00 Tour de France: Paris-Nice (1995) 15.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 16.00 Tour de France: Paris-Nice (1995) 16.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 17.00 Tour de France: Paris-Nice (1995) 17.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 18.00 Tour de France: Paris-Nice (1995) 18.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 19.00 Tour de France: Paris-Nice (1995) 19.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 20.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 20.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 21.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 21.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 22.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 22.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 23.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 23.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 24.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 24.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 25.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 25.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 26.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 26.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 27.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 27.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 28.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 28.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 29.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 29.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 30.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 30.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 31.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 31.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 32.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 32.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 33.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 33.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 34.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 34.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 35.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 35.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 36.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 36.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 37.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 37.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 38.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 38.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 39.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 39.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 40.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 40.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 41.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 41.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 42.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 42.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 43.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 43.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 44.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 44.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 45.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 45.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 46.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 46.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 47.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 47.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 48.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 48.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 49.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 49.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 50.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 50.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 51.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 51.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 52.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 52.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 53.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 53.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 54.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 54.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 55.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 55.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 56.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 56.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 57.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 57.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 58.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 58.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 59.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 59.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 60.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 60.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 61.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 61.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 62.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 62.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 63.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 63.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 64.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 64.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 65.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 65.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 66.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 66.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 67.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 67.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 68.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 68.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 69.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 69.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 70.00 Cycling: Tour of Bear (1995) 70.30 Cycling: Tour of Bear (

**RACING 42**

Bosra Sham wins  
in regal fashion  
at Royal Ascot

# SPORT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 1997

**SIMON BARNES 45**

Pundits who enjoy  
power without  
responsibility



Stimpson and Back likely to miss out on selection for international duty

## Lions hopefults fail to convince

**Emerging Springboks.. 22**  
**British Isles XV ..... 51**

FROM DAVID HANDE  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT  
IN WELLINGTON

The British Isles, four days away from the first international of their series with South Africa, achieved everything that they could have hoped for at the Boland Stadium yesterday: a heartening half-century of points, no disruptive injuries and the occasional abrupt reminder of the hardness and speed of thought that must be confronted in this country.

Yet, for all the strong finish, the 26 points scored by Tim Stimpson and Nick Beal's three tries, the match did not add to the selectors' worries when they sat down last night to contemplate their XV for the international. No player made an unanswerable case for playing at Newlands on Saturday, and Neil Back, the individual with the strongest claim, will probably still be edged out by Richard Hill.

Back's intelligence and skill suit the style that Ian McGeechan, the Lions coach, is trying to foster and Back, the Leicester flanker, revelled in the second half as the Lions took a grip of a match that at one stage looked as though it might drift away from them. In particular, Back linked well with Allan Bateman and Will Greenwood in the centre.

Both are worthy of international selection themselves, but will probably be kept out by Jeremy Guscott and Scott Gibbs. The selectors' deliberations may be made known on Friday, but they will wish that Stimpson had made a greater claim to the full back role. His points-scoring ability is not in doubt, but in general play he still creates enough uncertainty — particularly when dealing with the bouncing ball, locating support and making decisions in midfield — to leave Neil Jenkins more or less certain to play against South Africa.

The quality of the opposition yesterday must be considered, too. No player who had toured in a senior South Africa party was considered, which meant that Nick Mallett, the coach,



Bateman, left, fends off the challenge of Smut as the Lions surge forward in the Boland Stadium yesterday. Photograph: David Rogers/Allsport

was unable to choose some 35 to 40 high-quality players.

During the second quarter, they caused the Lions a variety of problems at set pieces and with their pace on the break.

At that stage, the Lions were happy to have scored 16 early points, thanks to Stimpson's kicking and a try by Rowntree, the prop, on the left wing that featured Redman, the lock, as acting scrum half and Regan, the hooker, delivering the scoring pass. Such interplay reflects McGeechan's philosophy.

Nevertheless, Brosnihan drove over from a tapped

penalty and, after Stimpson's third penalty goal, Smith replied in kind. Had he converted Goosen's try, the Emerging Springboks would have turned round a point in front rather than trailing 16-15.

The interval allowed the Lions to reaffirm their commitment to a wide game and impose their fluid structure on a side constantly disrupted by replacements. Bentley, who was yesterday added to the England squad for the one-off international against Australia next month, was the architect of the resurgence. He ran back a drop-out and

careered more than 50 metres before handing Beal the simplest of tries.

Beal's second followed swiftly and, though Treu chased through a grub-kick to give the Emerging Springboks a brief flicker of hope, the Lions tightened the screw. The strength of their final-quarter play has become one of their best features and yesterday was no exception, with three tries coming in the final 13 minutes.

Davison, their most reliable lineout jumper, began a well-sustained movement that ended when Catt's pass re-

leased Stimpson, and Catt then gave Beal the chance to loop round Diprose and score his third try. Not to be outdone, Catt ran through imperiously from a tapped penalty, Stimpson's kick taking the score past 50 in the final moments.

SCORERS: Emerging Springboks: Trice, Bronsman, Goosen, Treu, Convervation, Smith, Redman, Bent, Rowntree, Catt, Convervation, Simpson. Penalties: Stimpson (3). Try: Catt (2). Penalty goals: Simpson (3).

EMERGING SPRINGBOKS: M Smith (Free State); D Kotze (Eastern Province); P Botha (Western Cape); M Horwitz (Gauteng); P Treu (South-West District); L van Rensburg (Gauteng); A Adam (North-West); R Kemp (KwaZulu-Natal); D Smit (Free State); M du Toit (Western Province); W Broerse (Gauteng).

BRITISH ISLES: T Stimpson (Newcastle and England); J Bentley (Newcastle and England); A Balmer (Richmond and London); N Green (Greenwich and Woolwich); N Bavin (Nottingham and England); M Catt (Bath and England); A Rowntree (Leicester and England); J Davison (Bristol and England); Captain, R Wainwright (Walsall/Wolverhampton and Scotland); N Redman (Bath and England); J Jenkins (Cardiff and Wales); N Back (Leicester and England); A Diprose (Scarborough and England); M du Toit (Western Province).

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